NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE Annual Meeting Report 2014

This first-year Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Grand Isle (2013-025) on 12-26 April 2013 created excitement for numerous observers during its relatively long stay (at least by "spring" migrant standards). This represents Louisiana's third accepted occurrence.

photo: Patricia Rosel on 21 April 2013

2013-025

LBRC Annual Meeting: 15 March 2014

Synopsis of the 2014 LBRC

Annual Meeting

From Minutes recorded by Donna L. Dittmann, Secretary

The LBRC's 2014 Annual Meeting was held on 15 March at the LSU Museum of Natural Science in Baton Rouge.

All Voting Members were in attendance: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair), Paul E. Conover, John Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), James L. Ingold, Erik I. Johnson, Nancy L. Newfield, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Phillip A. Wallace.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is threefold. First, this is when Member elections are held. Second, additional business can be discussed and resolved, including resolution of Fourth Circulation "Discussion Round" records. And, finally, the Meeting provides an opportunity to fast-track acceptance of numerous straightforward First Circulation records.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and, after a break for lunch, was relocated to St. Gabriel, where it reconvened at 2:00 PM and then adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Record Review

Members reviewed 74 records, including 71 First Circulation records and three Discussion Round records. First Circulation records on this year's agenda were chosen by the Secretary and mainly involved what she

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This adult male Lazuli Bunting (2014-014), photographed here by Dave Patton on 21 February 2014, delighted the homeowners hosting it near Youngsville. This is only the eighth accepted Louisiana occurrence. Considered by the LBRC Secretary as a "well-documented, non-controversial occurrence," it was included on the roster of First Circulation records at the Annual Meeting. * * *

Since the discovery of the first hybrid Lazuli X Indigo bunting in 1929, their hybridization and hybrid zone in the Great Plains (and now elsewhere, such as southern California) have been the subject of ongoing research.

All Louisiana occurrences of Lazuli Bunting must be scrutinized to eliminate potential hybrids. This individual does not exhibit any obvious intermediate characters that would indicate hybridization. To date, hybrids have not been documented in Louisiana.

2014-014

Synopsis of 2014 Annual Meeting - continued from page 1

believed were well-documented, relatively noncontroversial occurrences supported by photographic or specimen evidence and with a
high probability of acceptance. For more
information about how First Circulation
records are reviewed at a Meeting, see the
online LBRC Bylaws at http://losbird.org/lbrc/ bylaws.htm. The majority of this Meeting's $\overline{\Omega}$ records were chosen from submissions posted at the online LBRC "pending records" pages, primarily page 7 <u>http://losbird.org/lbrc/</u> <u>viewreport.html</u>, specimen records, and documentation sent directly to the Secretar For First Circulation records reviewed documentation sent directly to the Secretary.

For First Circulation records reviewed during an Annual Meeting, Member votes are anonymous and without comment, and for a record to be accepted all Members must vote to accept. If a record vote is not unanimous or there appears to be some problem with a record, then that record will begin a traditional First Circulation review by "e-Round." Occasionally, a record is not accepted during a Meeting simply because one or more Members believe that officially recorded commentary is advisable for that particular record.

Sixty-two of the 71 First Circulation records were accepted at the Meeting. The nine records that did not receive an unanimous accept vote will circulate in e-Round 147.

Other records resolved

Three Fourth Circulation records were discussed at this Meeting and outcomes are reported in the 2014 Annual Report by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee: 13th Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (p. 4). The report also includes records resolved by the LBRC since last year's Meeting. More information about these records is outlined in the report's introduction below.

Other LBRC Business: Member Elections

Terms of two voting Members concluded at the Spring 2014 Meeting: John Dillon (Athens) and Nancy L. Newfield (Metairie). Both members were re-nominated and reelected for new four-year terms. Officers Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary) and Steven W.

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Cardiff (Chair) were also each re-nominated and re-elected for new one-year terms.

Updates of the Review List

The Committee did not propose or review any additions or deletions to the Review List at this Meeting.

The LBRC continues to emphasize the need to submit documentation for Review List species even though they may appear to be more regular and/or be approaching the Review List threshold for removal. Several species will be considered for removal at the next Meeting pending evaluation of records submitted between now and March of next year.

Both the State List and the Review List have been updated and posted at the LBRC website. The State List stands at 479 species, and there are 153 species on the Review List. Please visit: http://www.losbird.org/

Hybrids Hybrids Most observers are aware of the "hybrid problem" presented by large white-headed gulls. Gull species are especially prone to hybridization, including a number of species on the Review List. During record review, Members always consider whether reports of rare gulls (e.g., Great Black-backed Gull) support a phenotypically "pure" individual versus a hybrid. In the case of

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first generation hybrids, a cross between, say, Great Black-backed and Herring gulls would presumably exhibit characters intermediate between the parental species, as demonstrated $\overline{\mathbf{O}}$ here (photos right): a very large gull, but with

a mantle somewhat paler than a Great

Following recent LBRC reviews of

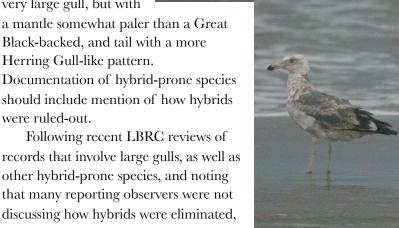
other hybrid-prone species, and noting

Black-backed, and tail with a more

Herring Gull-like pattern.

were ruled-out.





Members decided that it would be prudent to highlight hybrid-prone species whenever the opportunity arose (see pp. 2, 12, 18, and 20). Another hybrid-prone species, for which unaccepted records are included in this report, is Tropical Parula. The first state occurrence (specimen) involved an immature female, and so intermediate characters suggesting a hybrid could be subtle and difficult to detect/interpret. In the case of this specimen, however, its DNA was used in a phylogenetic study of the genus Parula. DNA analysis uncovered that this individual possesses a Northern Parula mtDNA haplotype and, thus, it may actually be a hybrid. Close examination of the specimen's plumage reveals subtleties that could support this hypothesis.

The Review List has been updated to denote species known to hybridize and which species' hybrids have been documented in Louisiana. We will also update the online "long form" to prompt observers to consider hybrids. Although photographic documentation is important for all record submissions, a good series of photographs can be especially helpful in showing diagnostic species characters that can be closely scrutinized to eliminate a potential hybrid.

Going more electronic

The LBRC has been trending increasingly electronic, from paperless circulations now to paperless record archival. We are also considering digitizing the entire paper archive. At the 2014 Annual Meeting, written documentation for records was only available in electronic format, making this the first "paperless" meeting.

In another update, Paul Conover has been working on the LBRC's photo gallery. If you haven't visited lately, then you can explore what's new at: http://losbird.org/lbrc/reviewlist.html. It's a slow process, but as we digitize more older records, then we should be able to provide a more thorough photographic archive. An example of a new species account is that of the King Eider: http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/kiei.html.

3



The elusive Connecticut Warbler is a species that few birders have been fortunate enough to see in Louisiana. This individual (2013-031) makes just the fourth accepted state occurrence. It was found and photographed on 4 May 2013 at Grand Isle's TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract by Robert D. Purrington. Others who subsequently searched for it were not so lucky.

2014 Annual Report by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee

Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary Steven W. Cardiff, LBRC Chair

Format follows that of LBRC reports previously published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* See: <u>http://losbird.org/jlo/jlo_v8.pdf</u>

One hundred and forty records are included in this report, including 62 First Circulation records accepted during the LBRC 2014 Annual Meeting; these records are shown in blue-colored font. Three Fourth Circulation "Discussion Round" records resolved at the 2014 LBRC Annual Meeting are also shown in blue font. Other records were reviewed electronically in batches designated as "E-Rounds," with voting by email and record documentation viewable on the internet. The 75 records decided during E-Rounds E-143, E-144, E-145, and E-146 are shown in black font. The Committee is striving to catch up on a backlog of older records, and this report contains a relatively high percentage of older records, many of which are sight reports lacking hard evidence. Review of some of these was delayed in hopes of eventually receiving additional documentation or photographs, but in most cases it became apparent that this was not forthcoming. The Committee will gladly accept additional documentation for any record resolved in this report. If it is determined that new evidence is significant enough to warrant reevaluation of a record, then the Committee will do so. Of records reported herein, there is an impressive 80% acceptance rate.

Records are organized in taxonomic order according to the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds*, 7th Edition through the 54th Supplement: <u>http://www.aou.org/auk/content/130/3/0558-0571.pdf</u>. Molt terminology follows Humphrey and Parkes (1959): <u>http://sora.unm.edu/node/20715</u>.

The LBRC thanks all who contributed to records included in this report, regardless of whether records are considered accepted or unaccepted. The name of submitting observer(s) follows all accepted records. According to LBRC policy, observers are not listed for records that are considered unacceptable. If photographic (ph), specimen (LSUMZ), or autopsy (initials and prep number) documentation is submitted as part of the record, then that abbreviation follows the observer's name. If the original discoverer submitted a report, then his/her name is boldfaced. If the discoverer did not submit a report and their identity is

known, then it is mentioned at the end of the record entry. The LBRC record archives, as well as all specimens reported herein, are housed at the LSU Museum of Natural Science. The LBRC requests additional reports or documentation for any record resolved here, as well as corrections to these records: a corrigendum will appear in the next Annual Report.

The LBRC would like to specifically acknowledge persons who contributed documentation that appears in this report: Julie Amador, Robby J. Bacon, Karl Bardon, James Beck, Laurence C. Binford, Richard S. Bello, Shirley Bogenrief, Brian Boone, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Christopher G. Brantley, Roger J. Breedlove, Bedford P. Brown, Joan Brown, Gary Broussard, Steven W. Cardiff, Jonathan Clark, Gerry Click, Olga Clifton, John Conover, Paul E. Conover, Jacob C. Cooper, Sandra DeHart, Miriam L. Davey, Terry Davis, Paul M. Dickson, John Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Jonathan L. Dunn, Douglas A. Faulkner, Thomas Finnie, Karen Fay, Margie Griffith, Deanna Griggs, R. Martin Guidry, Jeffrey W. Harris, Hubert & Pat Hervey, Michael Hilferty, Jay V. Huner, Greg D. Jackson, Billy Jones, Erik I. Johnson, Tom Johnson, Joseph P. Kleiman, Jon R. King, Richard L. (Rick) Knight, Shawn Kurtzman, Lucien P. Laborde, Jr., Daniel F. Lane, David J. L'Hoste, Eric Liffmann, Mark Lockwood, Charles E. Lyon, Joe Macaluso, Elizabeth Maniscalco, Ronnie Maum, Mary and Cham Mehaffey, Charles Mintz, Kevin P. Morgan, Michael Musumeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers III, Mike Nelson, Nancy L. Newfield, Anders Ogren, Dan O'Malley, Glenn Ousset, Margaret Owens, Stephen L. Pagans, Dave Patton, Stacy Jon Peterson, Matthew Pontiff, Jeanie Pousson, Robert D. Purrington, Larry R. Raymond and Ann Raymond, J. V. Remsen, Molly Richard, Christie Riehl, David J. Ringer, Dave Roark, Janine Robin, Patricia Rosel, Robert W. Russell, John P. Sevenair, Michael A. Seymour, Cliff E. Shackleford, Ronald J. Stein, Paul Sunby, Malcolm Mark Swan, Jeffrey Trahan, Tom Trenchard, Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber, Jason D. Weckstein, and Lizette Wroten.

Abbreviations used: BRAS (=Baton Rouge Audubon Society), CBC (=Christmas Bird Count), Hwy. (=Highway), Rd. (=Road), Dr. (=Drive), Blvd. (=Boulevard), Ln. (=Lane), mi. (=miles), NAB (=*North American Birds*), NWR (=National Wildlife Refuge), ph (=photo), ph. (=photographed by), St. (=Street), TNC (=The Nature Conservancy). Compass directions are abbreviated and capitalized (e.g., W = west).

Corrigendum: Eurasian Wigeon (1990-032) in First Circulation records accepted at Annual Meeting 2011 (*Newsletter of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee, Annual Report 2011*, p. 5) pertains to same record accepted in the 7th Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (Dittmann 1995, *JLO* 3(1):16-42). The correct LBRC number is 1990-004.

13th Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee

ACCEPTED RECORDS

IDENTIFICATION AND NATURAL ORIGIN WAS ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING 112 RECORDS:

Cinnamon Teal (Anas cyanoptera)

One adult male (1999-054) a few days prior to 17 January 1999, *Cameron*: marsh N of Little Chenier; submitted by Donna L. Dittmann based on 31 January 1999 Sunday Advocate newspaper article: photo (p. 6) and article by Joe Macaluso. One male (2014-001) on 3-19 January 2014, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, Pintail Loop; Billy Jones (ph), Molly Richard (ph), Jay V. Huner, Sandra DeHart (ph, p. 6), and Thomas Finnie (ph only).

White-winged Scoter (Melanitta fusca)

Two females (1996-62) on 20 April 1996, Cameron: rock jetties just E of Johnsons Bayou; Jonathan L. Dunn.

One female (2012-052) on 30 October 2012, Rapides: Kincaid Reservoir, E side of dam; Jay V. Huner (ph, p. 6).

One immature male specimen (2014-010) on 20 January 2014, *Avoyelles*: Horseshoe Lake; **Charles Mintz** and (LSUMZ) Lucien P. Laborde Jr. and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 10724). Photo of specimen prepared by Donna L. Dittmann is shown below (inset).

One female (2014-005) on 2-3 February 2014; *Jackson*: Chatham Lake near Chatham; Stephen L. Pagans (ph, p. 6), John Dillon (ph), Jonathan Clark (ph), and Charles Lyon (ph only).

One male (2014-006) on 4-19 February 2014, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, lake at Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Eric Liffmann (ph), J. V. Remsen (ph, p. 6), Dan O'Malley (ph), Janine Robin (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph), Erik I. Johnson, Christopher G. Brantley, and Jay V. Huner (ph).

At least two (2014-009) on 15 February 2014, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, offshore from beach approximately ¹/₄ mi. W of Erbelding Rd; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 6).

One in female plumage (2014-011) on 22 February 2014; *Cameron*: approximately ¹/₄ mi. W of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 6).

At least two (2014-012) on 22 February 2014, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, offshore from beach approximately 2 mi. W from terminus of Erbelding Rd.; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 6). May involve one of individuals (2014-009) seen on 15 February 2014.

2014-010

One adult female (2014-013) on 22 February 2014, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, offshore from beach at Peveto Woods Sanctuary at intersection of Ocean and Beach streets; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 6). continues next page

Long-tailed Duck (Clangula hyemalis)

One (2014-002) on 8 January-2 March 2014, *Union*: D'Arbonne Lake at Hwy. 33 boat launch near Farmerville; Gerry Click (ph), Stephen L. Pagans (ph, p.7), and Jay V. Huner.

Common Merganser (Mergus merganser)

One in female plumage (2013-047) on 23 November 2013, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, Sunset Point on Lake Pontchartrain; Janine Robin (ph, p. 7).

Three in female plumage (2013-057) on 14-23 December 2013; *Union*: D'Arbonne Lake spillway; John Dillon (ph), Stephen L. Pagans (ph), and Joan Brown (ph only, p. 7).

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2014-001

Photo Showcase I: Ducks (part)



Gorgeous male Cinnamon Teal at Cameron Prairie NWR (2014-001) was documented by a number of observers, here beautifully photographed (right) by Sandra DeHart on the "last observed" date of 19 January 2014.

Photograph (above), by outdoor writer Joe Macaluso accompanied his article in the Sunday edition of *The Advocate* newspaper, shows Thomas Beron holding a male Cinnamon Teal (1999-054) that he shot near Little Chenier during January 1999. Undoubtedly, many rare waterfowl taken by hunters are never reported to the LBRC, including another Cinnamon Teal taken that season and mentioned in the same article.





Nine White-winged Scoter occurrences were accepted in this report, seven of which are from winter 2013-2014. Unusual numbers reported in the southeastern US were likely driven southward by the very harsh northern winter. Above from left to right, a female-plumaged individual at Kincaid Reservoir (2012-052) on 30 October 2012 (ph. Jay V. Huner); another female-plumaged individual at Chatham Lake (2014-005) on 2 February 2014 (ph. Stephen L. Pagans); and an adult male at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge (2014-006) on 4 February 2014 (ph. J. V. Remsen). Below, left to right (all ph. Paul E. Conover): one of two just offshore near Johnsons Bayou (2014-009) on 15 February 2014; one with Lesser Scaup ¹/₄ mi. W of Holly Beach (2014-011) on 22 February 2014; at least two, also offshore near Johnsons Bayou (2014-012), on 22 February 2014; and one female offshore from beach at Peveto Woods Sanctuary (2014-013) on 22 February 2014.



Wilson's Storm-Petrel (Oceanites oceanicus)

Two (1998-027) on 13 June 1998, Gulf of Mexico: 58 mi. S of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River; Dave Patton.

Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*)

One (1998-074) on 13 October 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 44 mi. S of South Pass of the Mississippi River, N 28.3565°, W 89.13433°; Steven W. Cardiff, Donna L. Dittmann (sketch only, at right), David P. Muth, and Paul M. Dickson; NAB 53(1): 62. This becomes one of two accepted sight reports pre-dating the official first Louisiana hard-evidence record in 1999.



Audubon's Shearwater (Puffinus Iherminieri)

Two (2011-046) on 24 July 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: ca 60 mi. S of Venice; Justin Bosler (ph), Jeffrey W. Harris, Nancy L. Newfield, and Dave Patton (ph only, see below).

One (2011-047) on 25 September 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: Mississippi Canyon; Justin Bosler (ph), John Sevenair (ph, see below), Erik I. Johnson (ph), Robert D. Purrington (ph only), and Dave Patton (ph only, see below).

Masked Booby (Sula dactylatra)

One probable third-year (1999-043) on 2 April 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Ewing Bank 826-A oil platform, 61 mi. S of East Timbalier Island, N 28.16333°, W 90.35861°; Jon R. King.

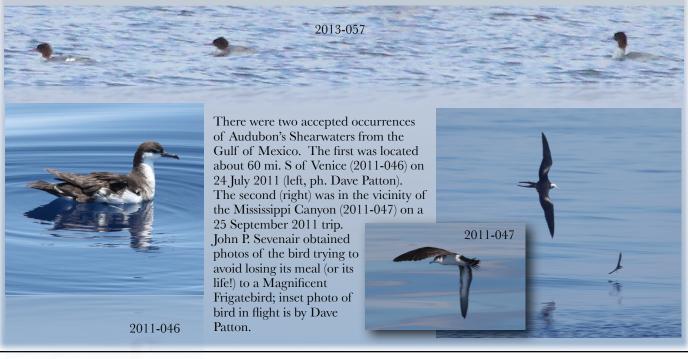
Photo Showcase 2: Ducks (end) through Shearwaters



This cooperative Long-tailed Duck was found at D'Arbonne Lake (2014-002) on 8 January 2014 (left, ph. Stephen L. Pagans).



Although not nearly as numerous as White-winged Scoters during winter 2013-2014, two records of Common Mergansers was still above average. This female-plumaged individual (above right) was spotted on the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain at Mandeville (2013-047) on 23 November 2013 (ph. Janine Robin). Below, three female-plumaged individuals kept their distance near the D'Arbonne Lake spillway (2013-057) on 23 December 2013 (ph. Joan Brown).





Parish and thus becomes Louisiana's second occurrence.

Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster)

One adult (2013-035) on 31 August 2013, *Plaquemines*: Mississippi River, between Delta NWR and Pilottown; Dan O'Malley (ph), Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 9), David P. Muth, and Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

Three near adults (2013-042) on 24 October-4 November 2013, *Calcasieu*: N end of Calcasieu Lake; Thomas Finnie (ph), Dave Patton (ph, p. 9), B. Mac Myers III (ph, p. 9), Jay V. Huner, and Mary Mehaffey (ph, p. 9). Originally discovered by Kevin Savoie and last date *fide* Matt Pontiff (*fide* LABIRD).

One adult (2013-050) on 27 December 2013-7 January 2014; *St. Tammany/Jefferson*: Lake Pontchartrain, mainly ¹/₂ mi. offshore from Madisonville Boat Launch, but ranging S to Lake Pontchartrain Causeway bridge in *Jefferson*; Christopher C. Brantley (ph, p. 9), Janine Robin (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph, p. 9), and Cham Mehaffey. Reportedly first found by Heydi Lopes on the St. Tammany CBC and confirmed later that day with assistance of Linden O'Quinn, who took observers out by boat.

Red-footed Booby (Sula sula)

One (2002-101) on 15 July 2002, *Gulf of Mexico*: Green Canyon block 640, approximately 119 mi. S of Trinity Island, Isles Dernieres, N 27.31639°, W 90.75631°; Brian Boone (photos above). This becomes the second Louisiana occurrence.

White-tailed Hawk (Buteo albicaudatus)

One sub-adult (2013-030) on 4 May 2013, *Calcasieu*: Friesen Rd., W of Ward Line Rd.; Melvin Weber (ph, p. 11). One adult (2013-058) on 1 December 2013, *Calcasieu*: approximately 2.5 mi. S of Iowa; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 11). One adult (2013-051) on 29 December 2013-11 January 2014; *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, Hwy. 397, a few mi. S of I-10 at Chloe exit and just N of McNeese St.; Jeanie Pousson, Deanna Griggs (ph only), and Billy Jones (ph only, p. 11). The LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of photographs submitted can be showcased in the annual newsletter and report.

Due to space limitations, photographs appearing in LBRC newsletters are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons and these are wellrepresented on this page: 1) provide an image of the individuals accepted (whether taken by the person who found the bird or by another, within the record's date range); 2) illustrate the importance of photographic documentation; 3) show the range of photographic images submitted to the LBRC for documentation; 4) stress the importance of *all photographs* to the documentation process from tack sharp to fuzzy/blurry (but species still recognizable). A grainy or poorly exposed photo can often be just as useful as one that is beautifully composed and professional-appearing; and finally, 5) as a means to encourage observers to carry a camera because, with practice, most observers can produce fine images of birds. And remember, even if others are photographing the same bird, their photos may not come out, be lost, or you can capture some aspect of the bird not captured by others as well as possibly help determine whether more than one bird may be involved. This newsletter also includes a few broader "habitat" shots.

The LBRC is very appreciative of the time and effort observers have expended to submit photos and written documentation to the Committee. Please keep up the good work, and **always have your camera handy or you might miss that record shot!**

Photo Showcase 3: Brown Boobies!

Amazingly, this adult Brown Booby (right two photos) between Delta NWR and Pilottown (2013-035) was flying *up* the Mississippi River and surprised observers on the way downriver for a National Audubon Society-sponsored pelagic trip on 31 August 2013. Fortunately, some observers had cameras ready, including Erik I. Johnson, who obtained these photos. Certainly, no one was expecting a booby flying upriver!

Landscape photo by Mary Mehaffey (below) on 1 November 2013, shows platform on Calcasieu Lake frequented (arrow) by these three Brown Boobies (2013-042). It certainly does not seem like very good booby habitat and makes one wonder what might be causing the recent "inland Brown Booby Phenomenon." A boat ride out to the platform on 29 October 2013 allowed for these excellent photos by Dave Patton (right) and B. Mac Myers III (below).

NING HIGH PRESSURE GAS LINE



2013-035





Another non-pelagic Brown Booby was discovered on Lake Pontchartrain (2013-050) during the St. Tammany CBC on 27 December 2013. From shore (photo far left by Christopher G. Brantley), the bird was merely a distant speck. An approach by boat on 31 December 2013 produced much better views and close-up photos (left & below by Mary Mehaffey).



Ferruginous Hawk (Buteo regalis)

One immature (2013-023) on 30 January 2013, *Cameron*: Willow Island, approximately 5 mi. E of Cameron; Justin Bosler (ph, p. 11).

One immature (2013-062) on 7 December 2013-14 March 2014, *Cameron*: 1 mi. W of Holly Beach and ranging as far W as where Hwy. 82 leaves the beach; Paul E. Conover (ph), Daniel O'Malley (ph), Thomas Finnie (ph only, p. 11), Shaun Kurtzman (ph only, p. 11), and Anders Ogren (ph only from eBird list).

Rough-legged Hawk (Buteo lagopus)

One (2011-104) on 19 December 2011, Natchitoches: off US Hwy. 71, approximately 4.25 mi. SE of Clarence; Justin Bosler (video frame, p. 11) and Devin Bosler.

Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)

One female (2012-059) on 27-31 July 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: 1.6 mi. S of Hwy. 14 on Illinois Plant Rd.; **Devin Bosler** (ph, p. 11), Dave Patton (ph), and Jay V. Huner.

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus)

Two (2000-093) on 23 April 2000, *Gulf of Mexico:* South Pass 89B oil platform, approximately 91 mi. S of New Orleans, N 28.68044°, W 89.38578°; Karl Bardon.

One third year (2000-094) on 15 May 2000, *Gulf of Mexico:* South Pass 89B oil platform, approximately 91 mi. S of New Orleans, N 28.68044°, W 89.38578°; Karl Bardon.

Little Gull (Larus minutus)

One adult in basic plumage (1999-037) on 25 March 1999, Cameron: Holly Beach, 2-3 mi. W of town of Holly Beach; Robby J. Bacon.

Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri)

One first-year male (2002-101) on 24 November 2002, *Cameron*: 5 mi. W of Holly Beach; B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 175246) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 8050; ph, p. 12).

One first basic female (2008-075) on 2 November 2008, *Cameron*: approximately 2 mi. W of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ 184281) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 9399; ph, p. 12).

One in first basic plumage (2013-021) on 19 January 2013, *Cameron*: approximately 1 mi. S of mouth Calcasieu Pass; Paul E. Conover (ph, p.12) and Dave Patton (ph only, p. 12).

One first year (2013-060) on 15 December 2013, *Cameron*: Cameron, E side Calcasieu River approximately 1 mi. N of ferry landing on Wakefield Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucoides)

One male in first basic plumage (2006-073) on 19 November 2006, *Cameron*: 5 mi. W of old mouth Mermentau River (Rutherford Beach), N 29° 46' 29", W 93° 12' 21"; Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 8829) and Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 179733; ph, p. 12 from slide prepared for a previous LBRC meeting). DNA analyzed by S. Sonsthagen, who determined that the allelic optimal is *Larus smithsonianus* (but also *L. californicus* and *L. fuscus*) so that genetic ID as *L. glaucoides* was not confirmed. Sonsthagen commented: "This individual has a lot of common alleles with a few rare ones for Thayer's and Glaucous-winged, which likely muddied up the genetic ID. Joe Jehl thought it was a *L. kumlieni* but he thought the tail was too dark for *kumlieni*." Tentatively identified as Kumlien's Iceland Gull and now accepted as representing the second state record.

One in first basic plumage (2013-018) from 9 March-7 April 2013, *Plaquemines*: Venice, Venice Boat Harbor and Venice landfill; Tom Johnson (ph, p. 12), Mary Mehaffey, Kevin P. Morgan (ph), Nancy L. Newfield, Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Tom Trenchard (ph), and Justin Bosler (ph).

One in first basic plumage (2013-019) from 23 November-14 December 2013; *St. Tammany*: Mandeville lakefront; Janine Robin (ph), Tom Trenchard (ph), James Beck (ph), Mike Museumeche (ph), Jay V. Huner (ph), Dave Patton (ph), and J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 12).

Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus)

One first basic (1997-24) on 8 February 1997, *Cameron*: 2 mi. W of Hackberry Ridge; Douglas A. Faulkner. One first basic (1997-72) on 26 March 1997, *Tefferson*: Grand Isle, Grand Isle State Park; Richard S. Bello.

One in first basic (1997-72) on 20 March 1997, Jefferson. Orand Isle, Orand Isle State Fark, Richard S. Bello.

One in first basic plumage (1999-034) on 25 March 1999, Gulf of Mexico, 110 mi. SW of Patterson; Richard L. (Rick) Knight.

Two in first basic plumage (1999-033) on 10 April 1999, Cameron: beach 4 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou Rd. and 8-9 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou; Melvin Weber.

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Photo Showcase 4: Hawks through Shorebirds

2013-030



2013-058

Three accepted occurrences of Whitetailed Hawk included a sub-adult on Friesen Rd. (2013-030) on 4 May 2013 (far left, ph. Melvin Weber), a much more distant adult south of Iowa (2013-058) on 1 December 2013 (left, ph. Paul E. Conover), and a much more cooperative adult at Lake Charles (2013-051), here (right) beautifully photographed on 10 January 2014 by Billy Jones.

Two immature Ferruginous Hawks were accepted. One at Willow Island (2013-023) on 30 January 2013 was documented by this overhead shot (below left) by Justin Bosler. Another wintering W of Holly Beach (2013-062) during fall-winter 2013-2014 was photographed by Thomas Finnie on 10 December 2013 (lower left), and by Shawn Kurtzman on 2 February 2014 (below right).



2013-051









Series of photographs of the same presumed "stakeout" individual can be extremely helpful in determining whether more than one bird is involved in all the sightings. In the case of this "Holly Beach" Ferruginous Hawk, which was present for many weeks, examination of photos taken at different times during its stay helped confirm that, indeed, only one individual was involved. Sometimes, however, the "multiple bird hypothesis" proves correct, and the LBRC urges observers to submit photos of "stakeout" rarities from throughout their stay because multiple individuals might be involved and you could possibly document an additional individual!

Below is a frame from a short video clip obtained by Justin Bosler used to document this immature Rough-legged Hawk near Clarence (2011-104) on 19 December 2011.



Digiscoped photos (right and below) by Devin Bosler more than adequately document this Ruff (2012-059) found 27 July 2012 along Illinois Plant Rd., N of Lacassine Pool. Similar size compared to Lesser Yellowlegs (upper right photo) indicates a female or "Reeve."





2012-059

Photo Showcase 5: Thayer's and Iceland gulls

Resolution of Thayer's/Iceland gull occurrences have been problematic for the LBRC. Although several occurrences are documented by specimens, through the years some LBRC Members have been reluctant to accept even specimen records without DNA confirmation. If DNA had not been analyzed or results were inconclusive (e.g., such as Iceland Gull LBRC 2006-073; image below from a slide presentation by the Secretary during a previous Meeting), then these Members would not accept the record. Herein lies a conundrum - if such restrictions are placed on specimens, then should the same standards be applied to non-specimen records? Conversely, if a specimen has "acceptable morphology" but the ID is not supported by DNA results, then should the LBRC still accept specimen or nonspecimen records that are otherwise "phenotypically correct?"





Two Thayer's Gull specimens were reviewed and accepted at the Meeting, both long after their collection. The first-year male (above) was collected along Holly Beach (2002-101) on 24 November 2002 by B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 175246). The firstyear female (below) was also collected along Holly Beach (2008-075) on 2 November 2008 by Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ 184281). Photos by Donna L. Dittmann.



Add to that the age-old debate about *what exactly is* a Thayer's Gull or an Iceland Gull. Without diving into the nebulous taxonomic issues and what constitutes a "Kumlien's Gull," their official species status hasn't changed since the AOU North American Classification Committee elevated Thayer's Gull to full species in 1973. As unresolved records accumulated, it was time for the LBRC to be more decisive in evaluating occurrences of these taxa, both specimen and sight records. The Committee decided to diagnose individuals of these two taxa as "pure" if the individual possesses the generally accepted suite of field characters presented in various references, but redefined these characters so that they could be applied in a somewhat more consistent manner. By this more streamlined process, the above specimen records as well as the below photographic records were accepted. The Committee now anticipates reopening accepted and unaccepted Thayer's/Iceland gull record files to reevaluate photo-documented occurrences by applying the streamlined sets of "acceptable characters."

Two photo-documented Thayer's Gulls were also accepted: one off Calcasieu Pass (2013-021) on 19 January 2013 (top left, ph. Dave Patton; bottom left, ph. Paul E. Conover); the other at 1 mi. N of the Cameron ferry landing (2013-060) on 15 December 2013 (ph. Donna L. Dittmann).

Two recent photo-documented Iceland Gulls were also accepted: first-year birds at Venice (2013-018) on 9 March 2013 (below left, ph. Tom Johnson), and at the Mandeville Lakefront (2013-019) on 23 November 2013 (below right, ph. Christopher G. Brantley). These represent just the third and fourth Louisiana occurrences.



Photo Showcase 6: Gulls (end) through Flycatchers





Late migrant Lesser Nighthawks were found at Peveto Woods Sanctuary (2013-033) on 11 May 2013 (above, ph. Paul E. Conover), and W of the mouth of Bayou Lafourche (2013-045) on 20 November 2013 (below, ph. Dan O'Malley). Three Glaucous Gulls were documented by photos: one on West Raccoon Island (2012-096) on 17 February 2012 (left, ph. Dan O'Malley); one on East Jetty Beach (2012-092) on 2 July 2012 (right, digiscoped by Devin Bosler); and one on the New Orleans lakefront (2012-091) on 6 December 2012 (right, with Brown Pelican, ph. Janine Robin).

This first basic Great Black-backed Gull (below) was photographed by Dave Patton at the mouth of Freshwater Bayou (2014-008) on 10 February 2014.

















A relatively large number of Say's Phoebes were accepted, most presumably "returnees" from recent "invasion winters." An overlooked record from the 2011-2012 invasion was of a bird at Clifton X Eugene rds., Calcasieu Parish (2011-112) on 23 December 2011 (top right, ph. Paul E. Conover). Four on the 2013 White Lake CBC included one at Isle Pevley (2013-054), here on 19 February 2014 (left), and three in the White Lake Wetland Conservation Area (2013-055), two here on 22 December 2013 (bottom left, bottom right shows habitat, ph. Donna L. Dittmann). Another two were near Sweet Lake (2013-041), one here on 25 December 2013 (above left, ph. Thomas Finnie). Other singles were at 2 mi. W of Bell City (2013-040) on 20 October 2013 (below middle, ph. Paul E. Conover), and ("new" individual) at Cameron (2013-048) on 15 December 2013 (above right, ph. Phillip A. Wallace). 2013-055



Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus) - cont.

One first winter (2012-096) on 17 February 2012, Terrebonne: Isles Dernieres, West Raccoon Island; Dan O'Malley (ph, p.

13).

One (2012-092) on 1-2 July 2012, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty Beach, approximately 2 mi. S of Cameron; Devin Bosler (ph, p. 13). Possibly same bird present in area during late Spring 2012 and reported as late as 1 June 2012 by Dave Patton (2012-061).

One first winter (2012-091) on 3 and 6 December 2012 and presumably the same individual to 29 March 2013, *Orleans*: Lake Pontchartrain at Seabrook Bridge; Robert D. Purrington (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph), Janine Robin (ph only, p. 13), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Justin Bosler (ph), and Tom Trenchard.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)

One first-year (1997-04) on 16 February 1997, St. Tammany: Mandeville, small boat harbor on E end of town; B. Mac Myers III and Phillip A. Wallace.

One first basic (1999-036) on 14 March 1999, Cameron: Broussard Beach; Richard L. (Rick) Knight.

One first basic (2014-008) on 10 February 2014, *Vermilion*: mouth of Freshwater Bayou at Gulf of Mexico, at approximately N 29.5336°, W92.3087°; Paul E. Conover and Dave Patton (ph only, p. 13).

Lesser Nighthawk (Chordeiles acutipennis)

One male (1998-47) on 8 April 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Banks 189A oil platform, 138 mi. S of Cameron, N 27.7786°, W 93.3095°; Laurence C. Binford.

One male (2013-022) on 1 April 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph). One male (2013-033) on 11 May 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13). One (2013-045) on 20 November 2013, *Lafourche*: beach W of mouth Bayou Lafourche at Belle Pass; Dan O'Malley (ph,

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (Selasphorus platycercus)

One adult male (1997-45) on 1 September 1997, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 5940 Seven Oaks Ave.; Margie Griffith (ph) and Nancy L. Newfield (possibly Y01402 returning for a second season at the same residence, banded 21 Feb 1997). No written documentation ever received; this is likely one of two individuals that wintered at this locality the previous season.

One immature male (1998-082) on 2 January 1999, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 5940 Seven Oaks Ave., residence of Margie Griffith; Laurence C. Binford. This individual appeared late fall 1998 and was last recorded on 7 March 1999.

One adult female (1999-004) on 3 and 26 January 1999, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 620 Rodney, residence of Yvonne Bordelon; Dave Patton and Daniel F. Lane.

One adult female (1999-079) on 21 November 1999, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 2265 Shirley, residence of Jean Wall; Laurence C. Binford and Nancy L. Newfield (banding report, feathers).

One immature female (2001-067) on 1 December 2001, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 909 Rittiner Dr. (feeders of Christopher Witt and Satya Maliakal); Nancy L. Newfield.

Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin)

One adult male (1997-68) on 17 October 1997-3 January 1998, *St. Tamma*ny: Covington, 23 Cardinal Rd., residence of John & Margaret Owens; Nancy L. Newfield (banded, T81469 on 17 October).

One immature male (1998-034) on 29 January 1998, Ascension: Prairieville, 18712 Manchac Highland, residence of Anne Gregory; Daniel F. Lane and Jason D. Weckstein.

Calliope Hummingbird (Selasphorus calliope)

One female or immature male (1999-003) on 14 January 1999, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 9350 W. Inniswold Rd., residence of Miriam Davey; Laurence C. Binford.

One female or immature male (1999-005) on 26 January 1999, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 620 Rodney, residence of Yvonne Bordelon; Laurence C. Binford and Daniel F. Lane.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (Cynanthus latirostris)

One adult male (1999-001) on 3 and 7 January 1998, *Lafourche*: Thibodaux, 601 Evergreen Dr., residence of Dot Pugh; M. Elizabeth Maniscalco and Nancy L. Newfield (banding report and feathers).

Crested Caracara (Polyborus plancus)

One (1998-146) on 26 December 1998, *Calcasieu*: Fabacher Rd., 1 mi. N Hwy. 108; Joseph P. Kleiman. One (1999-038) on 24 April 1999, *Cameron:* entrance to Rutherford Beach; Joseph P. Kleiman.

Say's Phoebe (Sayornis saya)

One (2011-112) on 23 December 2011, Jefferson Davis: intersection of Clifton and Eugene Rds.; Paul E. Conover (ph, p.

13).

One (2013-041) on 23 October and 11 December 2013; then two on 16 December 2013, *Cameron*: 1 mi. E of Hwy. 384 and intersection with southern end of Welch Rd.; B. Mac Myers III (ph), Thomas Finnie (ph only, p. 13), and Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff. These are presumably the same bird(s) returning for their third winter at the same location where three (2011-065) were found on 18 December 2011, and one (2012-086) was found on 16 December 2012.

One (2013-040) on 20 October 2013, *Calcasieu*: on NW quadrant of intersection of Hwy. 14 and Harris Rd., approximately 2 mi. W of Bell City; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13). Same location as a 22 February 2012 sighting and presumably same bird returning for another winter and reviewed last meeting (2012-034).

One (2013-048) on 15 December 2013, Cameron: Cameron, eastern side of town; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 13).

One (2013-054) on 22 December 2013 and 19 February 2014, *Vermilion*: N end of Doc Rd. (Isle Pevley), W of Forked Island and S of Intracoastal Waterway; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff. Presumably the same individual (2012-077) found at this location the previous winter.

Three (2013-055) on 22 December 2013 and one on 19 February 2014, *Vermilion*: E. side White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, W. end of Pine Island Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff. Presumed return individual (s) in same vicinity where four (2012-078) were present the previous winter.

Great Kiskadee (Pitangus sulphuratus)

One (2013-036) on 7 September 2013, Orleans: Bayou Sauvage NWR on Recovery Rd.; David P. Muth and Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 16).

One (2014-015) on 19 February 2014, *Cameron*: 100 m E of intersection of Hwy. 82 and Parish Rd. 140; Dan O'Malley (ph, p. 16).

Couch's Kingbird (Tyrannus couchii)

One (2013-049) on 22 December 2013, *Vermilion*: Lomire Rd., approximately 7 km SSW of Kaplan; Erik I. Johnson (video and audio; video frames, p. 16).

Couch's/Tropical Kingbird (Tyrannus couchii / melancholicus)

One adult (2013-034) on 12 May 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Hwy. 82 near mile marker 18 and entrance to Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **Dan O'Malley** (ph, p. 16), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), and Paul E. Conover (ph only, p. 16).

One adult, post-breeding female (2012-099) on 30 September 2012, *Cameron*: approximately 8 mi. E of Cameron; **Paul E. Conover** (LSUMZ) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 10727; ph, p. 16). This bird has exceptionally worn wings and primary 5 is damaged. Bill/wing ratio keys out as a Tropical but probably best to accept at this time as Couch's/Tropical until genetic identity can be confirmed.

Two (2013-061) on 18 May 2013, Cameron: near Sabine Pass, woods along Lighthouse Rd.; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 16).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

One (2013-024) on 15-26 April 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Grand Isle State Park; Tom Trenchard (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph, p. 16), Janine Robin (ph only), Robert C. Dobbs (ph), Phillip Wallace (ph), and Julie Amador (ph only).

One (2013-028) on 19-27 April 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, vicinity of Birch Ln.; Erik I. Johnson, **Dan O'Malley** (ph), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Jacob C. Cooper (ph, p. 16), and Michael Hilferty (ph only).

One (2013-053) on 19 April 2013, Jefferson: Grand Isle, TNC Grilleta Tract; Eric Liffmann (ph, p. 16).

One (2013-046) on 10 November 2013 and presumably the same individual to 26 January 2014, *Plaquemines*: Hwy. 23 between Alliance and Ironton; **Phillip Wallace** (ph, p. 16), David P. Muth, Janine Robin (ph), Glenn Ousset, and Robert D. Purrington.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (Tyrannus savanna)

One (2013-025) on 12-26 April 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, ranging from entrance road to Exxon/Energy XXI facility W to vicinity of Orleans Ave./Birch Ln./Willow Ln.; **Glenn Ousset** (ph), Erik I. Johnson, Dan O'Malley (ph), Patricia Rosel (ph, p. 1), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Robert C. Dobbs (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, and Julie Amador (ph only).

Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii)

One (2013-038) on 21 September 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 18). One (2013-039) on 29 September 2013, *Cameron*: woods along Lighthouse Rd.; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 18).

Photo Showcase 6: Flycatchers (end)

Only one of four accepted reports of Couch's/Tropical kingbirds could be identified to species: a voice-confirmed Couch's Kingbird S of Kaplan (2013-049) on 22 December 2013 (center, ph. Erik I. Johnson). The other occurrences, all involving photo-, or specimendocumented but silent individuals, were relegated to "unidentified Couch's/Tropical kingbird:" an 2013-036 adult at Johnsons Bayou (2013-034) on 12 May 2013 (far center right, upper ph. Dan O'Malley, lower ph. Paul E. Conover); two individuals at Lighthouse Rd. (2013-061) on 18 May 2013 (below right, three ph. by Paul E. Conover), and a specimen of a second-year post-breeding female taken near Cameron (2012-099) on 30 September 2012 (below, image of specimen, ph. Donna L. Dittmann). Compare photo of 2013-061 to specimen next to it new tertials contrast with old secondaries, indicating both birds are approximately same age. Although some measurements of 2013-049 the specimen suggest Tropical, critical primary feathers were worn/damaged; DNA analysis may help resolve the question of species. Photos that show fine details of wings (primary shape/flight feather age) and bill (length and width) can be helpful for species identification.



Three of four Gray Kingbird records involved individuals at Grand Isle during April 2013: at Grand Isle State Park (2013-024) on 15 April (below left, ph. Mary Mehaffey); at the TNC Grilleta Tract (2013-053) on 19 April (below The more unusual of two Great Kiskadee records was a bird in SE Louisiana at Bayou Sauvage NWR (2013-036) on 7 September 2013 (left, ph. Phillip A. Wallace); another was near Grand Chenier (2014-015) on 19 February 2014 (right, ph. Dan O'Malley).

2013-049

2013-061

2013-024 right,

center right, ph. Eric Liffmann); and in the Birch Lane area (2013-028) on 27 April (below center left, with Eastern Kingbird, ph. Jacob C. Cooper). Dramatically more atypical was a bird wintering near Alliance (2013-046), here on 10 November 2013 (day of discovery; below right, ph. Phillip A. Wallace).



2013-061





2014-015

2013-034

Black-whiskered Vireo (Vireo altiloquus)

One (2013-026) on 19 April 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Jay V. Huner (ph, p. 18) and Billy Jones (ph only). Reportedly discovered by Robby J. Bacon.

One (2013-027) on 13 April 2013 and presumably the same individual 19 April 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilleta Tract; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 18) and Dan O'Malley (ph).

Cave Swallow (Petrochelidon fulva)

One or two adults (1999-031) on 24-25 April and 1 May 1999, *Cameron*: Sabine River Bridge on Hwy. 82; Joseph P. Kleiman and Roger Breedlove.

One (2000-069) on 16-17 December 2000, *Cameron*: Cameron, Davis <East Jetty> Rd. in vicinity of sewage ponds: Mark Lockwood and B. Mac Myers III. First observed by Paul Sunby.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

One (2013-031) on 4 May 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract (Sureway Woods); Robert D. Purrington (ph, p. 4) and Phillip A. Wallace.

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (Setophaga coronata "auduboni-group")

One immature male (2013-029) on 27 April 2013, *Cameron*: [approximately 7 mi. E of Cameron] Willow Island; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 18).

One (2014-007) on 9 February 2014, Iberia: Avery Island, Jungle Gardens; Shirley Bogenrief (ph, p. 18).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (Setophaga nigrescens)

One adult female (2013-052) on 22 December 2013-30 January 2014, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract woods behind Sureway Supermarket; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Dan O'Malley (ph, p. 18). Presumably same female (2012-030) that wintered at this site previous season.

Townsend's Warbler (Setophaga townsendi)

One female (2013-037) on 23 September 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Michael J. Musumeche (ph, p. 18) and Jay V. Huner.

One immature male (2013-059) on 29 September 2013, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **Robert C. Dobbs** (ph) and Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 18).

Hermit Warbler (Setophaga occidentalis)

One male (1999-029) on 15 April 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Ewing Bank 826-A oil platform, 61mi. S of East Timbalier Island, N 28° 09' 48", W 90° 21' 31"; Jon R. King. This represents the third accepted Louisiana occurrence.

Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorurus)

One (2012-100) on 25 February 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: Oilfield Rd., 0.5 mi. S from intersection with Miller Oilfield Rd., approximately 3 mi. NE of Lacassine; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 20).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

One (2012-095) on 5 February 2012, Cameron: Oak Grove, Oak Grove Sanctuary; David J. Ringer (ph, p. 20).

One (2012-097) on 19 February 2012, *Calcasieu*: intersection of Elliot and Lincoln Rds., approximately 5 mi. SW of Lake Charles; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 20).

One (2012-098) on 26 February 2012, *Union*: intersection of DeLoutre Switch Rd. and Hwy. 33, 6 mi. SW of Marion; Stephen L. Pagans (ph, p. 20).

Up to three (2013-044) on 3 and 10 November 2013, *Bossier*: Red River NWR, Headquarters Unit; Terry Davis and Ronnie Maum (ph only).

One (2013-043) on 9 November 2013, *Red River*: Red River NWR, Bayou Pierre Unit, Yates Tract; Terry Davis and Jeffrey Trahan (ph only).

Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)

One female (2013-009) on 2 January 2013, Cameron: Catoire Rd. (during Creole CBC), Melvin Weber (ph, p. 20).

Photo Showcase 7: Vireos through Warblers



Two Bell's Vireos included this one (above) at Johnsons Bayou (2013-038) on 21 September 2013, and another (below) at Lighthouse Rd. (2013-039) on 29 September 2013 (both ph. Paul E. Conover).



Accepted Black-whiskered Vireo records included individuals on opposite sides of the state: at Grand Isle (2013-027) on 13 April 2013 (right, ph. Phillip A. Wallace), and at Peveto Woods Sanctuary (2013-026) on 19 April 2013 (left, ph. Jay V. Huner).



Two accepted records of "Audubon's Warbler" required extra scrutiny of plumage characters to eliminate possible hybrids with "Myrtle Warbler." Characters include throat color and pattern, auricular color, supraloral spot, postocular line, and wing and tail patterns. For more info see: J. P. Hubbard (1969), The relationships and evolution of the Dendroica coronata complex, Auk 86: 393-332. However, these characters are not as straightforward in immatures, such as the male photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (below left) at Willow Island (2013-029) on 27 April 2013, or winter adults, such as the bird (below right) at Avery Island (2014-007) on 9 February 2014 (ph. Shirley Bogenrief). Evaluation of species characters observed in photos of these individuals were judged to be consistent with pure Audubon's Warblers. However, hybrids probably can't be 100% excluded from consideration. To date, no such hybrids have been documented in Louisiana.



O'Malley on 30 January 2014.

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Photos clearly confirm that two different Townsend's Warblers visited Peveto Woods Sanctuary in Fall 2013.

Images above and above right (2013-037) by Michael J. Musumeche on 23 September 2013, and below and below right (2013-059) by Paul E. Conover on 29 September 2013.



2013-059

Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus)

One immature male (2012-094) on 26 January 2012, *Jefferson*: Harahan, between Colonial Golf Course and Mississippi River, Lizette Wroten (ph, p. 20).

One immature male (2014-004) on 28 January 2014, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 216 Loranger Dr.; Shirley Bogenrief (ph, p. 20). Bird reported by homeowner to have been present for 3-4 weeks.

Lazuli Bunting (Passerina amoena)

One adult in basic plumage male (2014-014) on 17-21 February 2014, *Lafayette*: 2.5 mi. WSW Youngsville, private residence near Savoy X Verot rds. at Larive-Rowland residence; Erik I. Johnson and Dave Patton (ph, p. 2).

Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis)

One male (2012-066) on 7 March 2012, *Plaquemines*: Tidewater, Madere Landscape; Mary Mehaffey (ph, p. 20).

One adult male (2013-014) on 26 February 2013, Calcasieu: Lake Charles, Farmers Rice Mill on Hwy. 397; Billy Jones (ph,

One adult male (2013-032) on 10 May 2013, Terrebonne: Cocodrie, LUMCON; John Conover (ph, p. 20).

Bullock's Oriole (Icterus bullockii)

One immature male (1997-061) on 21 December 1997, Cameron: Johnsons Bayou, ENE of Smith Island Woods; Paul

One adult male (1998-08) on 26 February 1998, *Orleans*: New Orleans, residence of Kay Radlauer; Phillip A. Wallace. One adult male (1998-143) on 21 December 1998, *Cameron*: Oak Grove; Ronald J. Stein.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Each record listed below is accompanied by a brief explanation about why that record was not accepted. In nearly every case, the primary reason that a record isn't accepted is that the written documentation was ultimately considered insufficient to confirm species identification. Evaluation and interpretation of a record's written details is, of course, a balancing act and the Committee's general policy has been that if details are not adequate, are too subjective, or otherwise conflict with a correct identification, then we would prefer to err on the conservative side, which means we may not accept a report that is correctly identified. Whereas our record reviews focus on a variety of parameters (description, details of the observation, observer skill/ reputation/experience, etc.) we simply cannot "fill in missing or overlooked details," which would embellish upon a record no matter how obvious a species may be or how well any of us may know or realize an observer's skill level or reputation. Records that fall outside a documented pattern of occurrence tend to receive greater scrutiny. Included below are several older submissions, some backlogged in the files because we were awaiting additional documentary materials that were never submitted. It is never too late to submit older records; however, in doing so, it is very important to submit any field notes or other associated documentation that provides support for an older record. Many older checklists are being submitted to eBird and rarities are flagged and must be validated by the eBird Regional Reviewer; such flagged submissions may include Review List Species, and these entries may not be validated until submitted to the LBRC, reviewed, and accepted (see Review List for species that were once on the Review List that may be relevant to older checklists). Records based on memory many years after the observation are still important to submit to add to the archive and are welcomed by the LBRC. However, for review purposes, please understand that these records are evaluated based on the strength of documentary materials submitted. Most records are resolved following the first or second circulation.

CORRECT IDENTIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING 26 RECORDS WAS NOT ACCEPTED:

Tundra Swan (Cygnus columbianus)

Two adults (1999-041) on 16 April 1999, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Hwy. 1, about 200 yds. E of Grand Isle Bridge. There was not enough detail provided to eliminate Trumpeter or Mute Swan.

Cinnamon Teal (Anas cyanoptera)

One adult male (1999-040) on 15 March 1999, *Cameron*: Lacassine NWR, Pool Unit. Quite possibly correctly identified, but the description was fairly superficial and a majority of members believed that more detail was needed to confirm identification and to eliminate the possibility of a hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged teal (e.g., see last newsletter).

One male (1999-107) on 17 December 1999, Cameron: Lacassine NWR, Pool Unit, near overlook. Same as above.

Red-throated Loon (Gavia stellata)

One (1998-032) on 12 March 1998, *Lafourche*: Pass Fourchon. Although the description was suggestive, photos ultimately confirmed that the bird was a Common Loon.

Photo Showcase 8: Towhees through Orioles



2012-100



Three additional Spotted Towhee records were accepted from the invasion winter of 2011-2012, including: one 6 mi. SW of Marion (2012-098) on 26 February 2012 (right, ph. Stephen L. Pagans); one at Oak Grove (2012-095) on 5 February 2012 (lower right, ph. David J. Ringer); and, lastly, one 5 mi. SW of Lake Charles (2012-097) on 19 February 2012, hiding in dense vegetation yet still identifiable (below, ph. Paul E. Conover).

Also from the 2011-2012 invasion winter is this Greentailed Towhee at Oilfield Rd. (2012-100) on 25 February 2012 (upper left, ph. Paul E. Conover).

This distant female Western Tanager was documented during the Creole CBC (2013-009) on 2 January 2013 (left, ph. Melvin Weber). Although of poor quality, the photo still supports the identification.





2012-098

Black-headed Grosbeak is known to hybridize with Rose-breasted Grosbeak, so good series of photos are important for allowing identification as a "pure" individual. Here, two immature males are nicely documented, one at Harahan (2012-094) on 26 January 2012 (below left, ph. Lizette Wroten), and one at Lafayette (2014-004) on 28 January 2014 (below right, ph. Shirley Bogenrief).





Accepted Shiny Cowbird records included: one male at Tidewater (2012-066) on 7 March 2012 (see cowbird "triple treat" at right, Shiny on top, two Brown-headeds below on left, and a Bronzed - these are not really in a cage although some might argue because of their parasitic nature that they all should be; ph. Mary Mehaffey); an adult male at Farmers Rice Mill, Lake Charles (2013-014) on 26 February 2013 (below left, ph. Billy Jones); and a male at Cocodrie (2013-032) on 10 May 2013 that appeared to be an arriving trans-gulf migrant (below middle, ph. John Conover). To date, there is still no confirmed Louisiana occurrence of a female Shiny Cowbird.





UNACCEPTED RECORDS - continued

Pacific Loon (Gavia pacifica)

One in basic plumage (2011-108) on 26 November 2011, *Union*: D'Arbonne Lake, off N. Spillway Rd./PR-7713, ca 4.5 mi. SE of Farmerville. If accepted, this would have represented the first Louisiana occurrence. Although some Members believed that the description and photos were possibly suggestive for Pacific Loon, the overwhelming consensus was that the documentation was not strong enough to hold up as a first state occurrence, especially considering distances involved, viewing conditions, and (due to distance and lighting) the resulting relatively poor quality supporting photos.

Western/Clark's Grebe (Aechmophorus sp.)

One (1997-012) on 25 January 1995, *Union*: D'Arbonne NWR. The description did not provide enough detail to accept to species. However, some Members maintained that details submitted were good enough to document the genus *Aechnophorus*. So, this record continued through a Third Circulation before a majority of members agreed that the description was just too vague to support the observation as even a generic Western/Clark's Grebe.

Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster)

One second-year (1999-042) on 14 April 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Ewing Bank 826-A oil platform, 61 mi. S of East Timbalier Island, N 28.16333°, W 90.35861°. Most Members ultimately agreed that details provided were insufficient to eliminate immature Red-footed Booby, Masked Booby, or even Northern Gannet.

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

One immature (1998-038) on 10 and 27 January 1998, *Rapides*: 1.5 mi. N of Cheneyville, near intersection of Bayou Rd. and Echo-Cheneyville Rd. The description was suggestive but too superficial to decisively eliminate Bald Eagle.

Audubon's Shearwater (Puffinus Iherminieri)

One (1999-044) on 20 March 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Banks 189 oil platform, 138 mi. S of Cameron, N 27.7786°, W 93.3095°.

One (1999-166) on 21 March 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Banks 189 oil platform, 138 mi. S of Cameron, N 27.7786°, W 93.3095°.

One (1999-167) on 28 March 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Banks 189 oil platform, 138 mi. S of Cameron, N 27.7786°, W 93.3095°.

Descriptions for all the above (originally submitted as one record) were too superficial to support identification as Audubon's or eliminate Manx Shearwater. Audubon's should not be treated as the "default" small black and white shearwater, especially because there are no confirmed records of Audubon's from March.

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus)

One or two (2000-090) on 16 March 2000, *Gulf of Mexico*: South Pass 89B oil platform, approximately 91 mi. S of New Orleans, N 28.68044°, W 89.38578°. Although possibly correctly identified, the observer did not describe any plumage details and the identification was by size and "flight style."

One second-year (2000-092) on 7 April 2000, *Gulf of Mexico*: South Pass 89B oil platform, approximately 91 mi. S of New Orleans, N 28.68044°, W 89.38578°. Possibly correctly identified, but the description did not adequately eliminate other jaeger species.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)

One about one year old (1996-042) on 23 June 1996, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach. Documentation included a brief description and several poor-quality photographs. The record went three circulations before a deciding Fourth Circulation discussion vote. Members briefly reviewed the report and photographs. The Committee generally agreed that the details and photos were suggestive of a first alternate Lesser Black-backed, but several Members ultimately could not be convinced that a Herring Gull or some hybrid combinations could be decisively eliminated from consideration. The record was not accepted 6-3.

California Gull (Larus californicus)

One in basic plumage third-year/adult (2000-063) on 23 December 2000, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Seabrook Bridge Boat Launch on Lake Pontchartrain. After three circulations, a majority of Members believed that inconclusive ageing of the bird, lack of views in flight, and inconsistencies about the bill pattern made it difficult to be confident about the identification. The "relatively" advanced age combined with leg color, dark eye, "correct" bill pattern (one observer, but not the other), smallish bill, and relatively dark mantle were suggestive of California Gull, but there were also concerns about the bird's size (described as "small HEGU" = better for larger, paler-mantled *albertaensis*) and that the legs were described as gray-green and the mantle described as pretty dark (= better for smaller nominate *californicus*).

Mew Gull (Larus canus)

One in first basic plumage (2000-044) on 5 November 2000, Caddo: Shreveport, Cross Lake. This would have represented a first state occurrence. The description was fairly detailed, but photos could not be obtained and most Members believed that Ring-billed Gull could not be conclusively eliminated.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)

One adult (1997-46) on 2 January 1997, Grand Isle CBC (no specific locality). The bird was not seen in flight. Part of the description indicated "paleness" (used to exclude a Kelp Gull), which troubled at least one Member. Although the observer reported that he was familiar with this species, all Members believed that the description was inadequate to support the identification. Lack of a specific locality was also considered a problem.

One first-year (1997-055) on 13 September 1997, Plaquemines: approximately 7.5 mi. N of the mouth of Southwest Pass

of the Mississippi River. During a Fourth Circulation discussion vote, all Members agreed that the description was suggestive of Great Black-backed Gull and that the reporting observer was probably familiar with this species. However, the bird was not seen in flight and, therefore, critical marks such as the tail pattern could not be evaluated to eliminate potential hybrids, especially a Great Black-backed X Herring hybrid. The record was considered not accepted 2-7.

One first-year plumage (1998-165) on 16 April 1998, Lafourche: Fourchon Beach, ¹/₂ mi. E of entrance road. All members believed that the bird may have been correctly identified, but the description provided little to go on other than that the bird was large and had checkered upperparts. There were also concerns that the possibility of a hybrid was not adequately dealt with in the report, especially considering that a number of hybrids and/or suspected hybrids have occurred in SE Louisiana.

Flammulated Owl (Psiloscops flammeolus)

 Flammulated Owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)
One (2000-083) on 17 December 2000, *Cameron*: Willow Island, 7 mi. E of Cameron This record received a majority no accept vote on the Second Circulation. The observer had no experience with the species – but clearly described an encounter with a small owl with dark eyes and lacking ear tufts. Unfortunately, photos could not be obtained. The description sounded somewhat convincing, but not much descriptive detail about size, proportions, or plumage could be accumulated during the relatively brief observation. Another potentially supporting character noted was a row of buff spots in the scapulars. However, brown morph Eastern Screech-Owls can also show a row of buff or rusty scapular spots, and they can also show other rusty patches in the neck/shoulder area. So, presence of that field mark did not decisively eliminate Eastern Screech-Owl over Flammulated Owl.
Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*)
One female or immature (1997-39) on 26 October 1997, *St. Tammany*: Lewisburg, 162 Elm St. The observer indicated some uncertainty about the identification, which was based on a very brief description lacking a convincing set of diagnostic characters for this species.
Two, immature male and immature female (2000-086) on 26 December 2000, *St. Tammany*: Slidell, 1418 Greenwood St. Some Members were convinced by the description, but a majority believed that the description did not eliminate other *Selasphorus* species. One (2000-083) on 17 December 2000, Cameron: Willow Island, 7 mi. E of Cameron This record received a majority non

Two, immature male and immature female (2000-086) on 26 December 2000, St. Tanmany: Slidell, 1418 Greenwood St. Some Members were convinced by the description, but a majority believed that the description did not eliminate other Selasphorus

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (Selasphorus platycercus)

One immature (1996-59) on 18-25 December 1996, East Baton Rouge: Baton Rouge, Seven Oaks Dr. The report consisted of a photo with no supporting written documentation. Although some Members were convinced by the photo, which appeared to show some Broad-tailed characters, others believed that the bird's missing tail and the lack of a description were insurmountable problems.

One adult male (1997-01) on 4 January 1997, St. Tammany: Covington, 23 Cardinal Rd. This bird was observed on a Christmas Bird Count. Two observers provided only minimal and somewhat contradictory details and, although this individual may well have been correctly identified, a majority of Members did not believe that acceptance was warranted.

One immature male (2000-48) on 30 December 2000, East Baton Rouge: Baton Rouge, 909 Rittiner Dr. The description was brief and inadequate to support identification. The observer reported that the homeowners did obtain photos and the Committee would welcome these to re-review this record.

Western Wood-Pewee (Contopus sordidulus)

One in presumed fresh juvenal plumage (2011-110) on 1 October 2011, Cameron: Lighthouse Rd., S of Hwy. 82. Most Members believed that this record did not include adequate detail or photographic views to definitively identify this individual as a Western Wood-Pewee.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus tyrannulus)

One (1997-66) on 29 December 1997, *Plaquemines:* Venice; woods at Coast Guard Station. The bird did not vocalize and the tail pattern was not well seen. Although it was reported that the bird responded positively to a tape of a Brown-crested Flycatcher, this was not enough to overcome the general lack of diagnostic details and all Members believed that this record was best relegated to *Myiarchus* sp.

Couch's/Tropical Kingbird (Tyrannus couchii/melancholicus)

One (1996-85) on 11 May 1996, *DeSoto:* 2 mi. W of Keatchie. This individual was apparently observed by numerous observers and reportedly photographed, yet only one report was received and it was not accompanied by photos. The single report was not detailed enough to identify this individual even to "complex." The Committee would be happy to re-review this record if additional documentation is produced.

Tropical Parula (Setophaga pitiayumi)

One (1996-13) on 13 January 1996, *Vermilion*: Hwy. 700, approximately ¹/₂ mi. W of Hwy. 35. The presence of pale eye arcs and a light-colored cheek indicates that this individual may be best treated as a hybrid Northern Parula X Tropical Parula. One presumed first-year male (2011-109) on 10 November 2011, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW of Johnsons Bayou School. This individual was thought to be an immature male based on green crown and orange wash across the breast. Scrutiny of the excellent series of photographs revealed several characters inconsistent with a pure immature male Tropical Parula, including white that formed "lower" eye arcs, pale lores, and no black or dusky in the face, as well as a pale arc of yellow under the cheek. All these characters may better support identification as a Tropical X Northern parula hybrid.

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (Setophaga coronata "auduboni-group")

One alternate male (1998-148) on 10 April 1998, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary. This bird's throat was described as "suffused with yellow," which could be interpreted as indicative of a hybrid Audubon's X Myrtle, which became a concern for a majority of Members.

Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus)

One first basic male (2000-062) on 23 December 2000, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Morrison Rd., just E of Vanderkloot. A brief observation by two observers with somewhat conflicting descriptions. Following the third circulation, a majority of Members believed that the brief and generally distant (15-30 sec at 90-150 feet) views were not adequate to support the record.

Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)

One male (2000-089) on 23 December 2000, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Chalmette Battlefield. The majority of Members agreed that the description was too superficial for acceptance.

Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Junco (Junco hyemalis caniceps)

One adult (1997-65) on 25-26 October 1997, *Cameron:* Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge, Price Lake Rd. Although the written report suggested Gray-headed, the photos are more indicative of a Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco (*J. h. mearnsı*).

One (1999-083) on 1-2 November 1999, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Banks 189 oil platform, 138 mi. S of Cameron, N 27.7786°, W 93.3095°. Referenced specimen was inadvertently skeletonized by an LSUMNS graduate student. A witness who examined the headless frozen specimen insisted that it was consistent with a typical Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco.

Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)

Two or three (1997-11) on 7 January 1997, *Vernon*: 2 mi. S of Caverns. The observer only saw birds in silhouette and reported "typical flight call." And, although the observer is probably experienced with members of this complex, without going into greater detail about the actual calls, or seeing the birds, all Members believed the report was not sufficient for acceptance.

WILD ORIGIN OF THE FOLLOWING RECORD WAS NOT ACCEPTED:

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)

One (2013-20) on 10 February 2013, *Cameron*: 1 mi. N of Hackberry. Most Members believed that this report likely involved a feral Canada Goose (perhaps derived from the Rockefeller Refuge released/established birds) rather than a wild individual.

NOT ACCEPTED BECAUSE DETERMINED TO BE OUTSIDE LOUISIANA STATE BOUNDARIES:

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (Oceanites oceanicus)

One (1998-147) on 11 July 1998, Gulf of Mexico: 81.5 mi. S of Gulf Shores, Alabama, N 29.19232°, W 89.52333°.

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OMISSIONS IN THIS ISSUE, THEN PLEASE SEND CORRECTIONS TO THE SECRETARY. Thank you!

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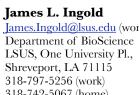


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May 15, 2014

JAMES M. BISHOP, & LBRC MEMBERS Steven W. CARDIFF, PAUL E. CONOVER, NANCY L. NEWFIELD, AND PHILLIP A. WALLACE WHO SCOURED THIS **ISSUE FOR ERRORS** AND SUGGESTED

MANY

NEVERTHELESS,

SOME MISTAKES

ERRORS OR