

NEWSLETTER OF THE
LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
Annual Meeting Report 2017

Annual Report, June 14, 2017

Louisiana's third Mexican Violetear visited an Arcadia feeder last summer for five days; photographed here on 12 July 2016 by Charles E. Lyon.

Annual Meeting: 11 March 2017

Synopsis of the 2017 LBRC Annual Meeting

by: Donna L. Dittmann, Secretary
& Steven W. Cardiff, Chair

The LBRC's 2017 Annual Meeting was held on its scheduled date of 11 March 2017 as per LBRC Bylaws (meeting to occur on the first Saturday after 9 March).

Eight Voting Members were in attendance: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair), Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Nancy L. Newfield, and Phillip A. Wallace. John K. Dillon was unable to attend due to an illness in his family.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:26 AM, a somewhat later start than normal due to this year's relatively light agenda.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is threefold. First, this is when Member elections are held. Second, the Meeting provides an opportunity to fast-track acceptance of straightforward First Circulation records. This year, we reviewed nine specimen records of Cory's Shearwater, which were unanimously accepted as "generic" Cory's. But, Members could not agree on subspecies identification. Regardless, it was a good opportunity to examine LSUMNS specimens of this "species complex," which will benefit future discussions. Third, additional business can be discussed and resolved, including final resolution of Fourth Circulation "Discussion Round" records. In stark contrast to last year's Discussion Round "marathon," however, this year there were no Fourth Circulation records ready to debate.

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Phillip A. Wallace retires from the LBRC

Phillip Wallace was elected to the LBRC at the Fall 1997 Meeting and he has served uninterrupted terms on the Committee ever since. During his long tenure, Phillip's track record of discovering, documenting, and submitting records of rarities was impressive and he set a great example for the Louisiana birding community. His guidance will be sorely missed. LBRC Members past and present thank Phillip for his long service and wish him good health and good fortune in retirement, and great birding long into the future!

Member Elections

Terms of two Voting Members expired at the Meeting: **Phillip A. Wallace** and **Paul E. Conover**.

Wallace opted to retire from the Committee after serving since 1997. The LBRC thanked Phillip for his long service to the LBRC. **Larry R. Raymond** was nominated to a 4-year term and elected to fill Wallace's vacancy. Larry will also enhance the LBRC's representation from northern Louisiana. Larry also currently serves as a Board Member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society.

Paul E. Conover agreed to serve another 4-year term and was unanimously re-elected. Paul is also the Committee's webpage coordinator.

One-year terms for both the Chair **Steven W. Cardiff**, and Secretary **Donna L. Dittmann**, also expired at the Meeting. Both officers were nominated and elected to serve another 1-year term.

Following elections, there was a brief discussion about other individuals who would make good future additions to the LBRC.



Larry R. Raymond joins the LBRC

Larry is married to Anne Crenshaw Raymond and they have three children and six grandchildren. A native of St. Bernard Parish, he spent his working career with the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department serving as a Park Naturalist and Director of Parks and Recreation, spanning a combined 37 years. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from Northeast Louisiana University (now University of Louisiana Monroe), and maintains his certification as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional. Larry also served as an adjunct instructor of Biological Sciences at LSU-Shreveport for more than 25 years. He is currently employed part-time as an Adjunct Instructor of Biological Sciences for Bossier Parish Community College.

Larry is a member of numerous scientific organizations with primary interests in vertebrate biology and he has served as President of the Northwest Chapter of the Louisiana Native Plant Society and President of the Louisiana Parks and Recreation Association. He is also currently President of the Shreveport Bird Study Group, a Board Member of LOS, co-Director of the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, Vice-President of Shreveport Green, a Board Member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and is involved at both the local and state level with the Louisiana Master Naturalist Program.

Meeting Discussion Topics:**Monk Parakeet:****the case of a localized introduced/feral population**

The Committee once again discussed status of Monk Parakeet and whether to add it to the State List as an Introduced Species. The discussion was prompted following voting results for several reports recently resolved and included in the *20th Report of the LBRC*. The Committee wanted to better define ‘established’ to a broader context of what constitutes an ‘Introduced Species.’ Should small localized populations be considered introduced if they only occur and are successful in one or a few unconnected urban sites? Most Members indicated that they were not in favor of accepting a localized feral population as an Introduced Species. If a native population, for example, had a Louisiana distribution similar to that of Monk Parakeet, then it would probably be considered threatened or endangered. Members were concerned that other urban/parkland feral species such as Muscovy or feral Canada Goose were similarly established on a very local basis, and that if Monk Parakeet was to be accepted as Introduced, then there would be pressure to treat these other feral species similarly. The Committee further wanted to maintain a distinction between those exotic species that are able to successfully colonize vast areas (e.g., most recently, House Finch, Eurasian Collared-Dove) versus those that remain localized and dependent on human landscapes. Because localized populations are disconnected groups of individuals, they are very different from recent exotic species whose populations have colonized Louisiana and now are established over very large areas. Localized populations can more easily disappear (e.g., Spotted Dove in California) or be exterminated (e.g., Monks are potentially a threat to cell phone and utility companies). Despite Monks being present for a long time in the Greater New Orleans area (see Sevenair 2012: http://losbird.org/jlo/jlo_v9.pdf) and that the population has apparently persisted through hurricanes including Katrina in 2005, the population nevertheless remains relatively localized. A straw poll was taken and the majority of Members agreed to maintain the status quo with regard to state introduced species status - retaining “Introduced Species” for successful widespread colonist species.

An interesting counterpoint is here: <https://www.aba.org/birding/v43n5p46.pdf>. The authors anticipate being able to count a number of exotics. Note that “*Under the Radar*” exotics were considered to “have moderate to large populations” when generally numbers were “>100 individuals.” The LBRC believes a threshold of some minimum population number is relevant but should be significantly greater than 100. Also, exotics tend to be in pockets of individuals tallied statewide, rather than a statewide gene pool of interacting individuals. Isolated pockets may be differentially impacted. See concerns regarding removal of palms in New Orleans: <http://uptownmessenger.com/2013/04/wild-parakeets-displaced-by-jefferson-avenue-tree-clearing-may-live-on-as-newman-greenies/>. However, palms continue to be regularly planted as city landscaping.

It is interesting to compare LBRC views of exotics to decisions by other bird records committees. The two states with the greatest exposure to potential introduced exotics are California and Florida. Excerpt below is from the Bylaws of the California Records Committee on their criteria for evaluating potential Introduced Species. Note focus on ‘geographically contiguous suitable habitat.’

California Bird Records Committee: (a) the correct identification of the species and (b) the viability of the population. To be judged viable, a population must: (i) have bred in the state for fifteen (15) consecutive years, (ii) in general, be increasing or stabilized after an initial period of increase, (iii) be judged to have occupied all geographically contiguous suitable habitat to such a degree as to sustain the population and be thought unlikely to significantly diminish, and (iv) occupy an environment judged similar enough in ecological factors (e.g., climate, vegetation, food, shelter, competitors, predators) to the species’ natural habitat, or to other successful introductions, that permanent establishment seems likely.



Photo by Jonathan Zell of a Monk Parakeet next to a nest in an electric power pole in Metairie, Jefferson Parish. Located in the yellow-shaded area of map (above) based on Sevenair (2014) shows parakeet's core range in the Greater New Orleans area.

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The relevant section of the Florida Records Committee Bylaws is below. Of note is that Florida considers multiple 'local' populations totaling several hundred individuals as a meaningful population threshold.

Florida Bird Records Committee: (a.) An exotic species that has exhibited rapid population growth by widely evident natural reproduction, accompanied by evidence of extensive range expansion within (and perhaps beyond) Florida, may be deemed "established." The example of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Florida during the late 20th century provides a model application of this rule (Population Growth and Range Expansion criteria), even though the origin of this species in the state may be in doubt. See 3b for publication requirement

(b.) An exotic species for which there is acceptable evidence that successful nesting (fledged young) is a characteristic of one or more local populations of several hundred individuals, that this nesting activity is recruiting young adults into the population(s), that (if applicable) the population(s) have exhibited resilience in the face of major perturbations such as hurricanes or habitat disruptions, and that there is little or no evidence that ongoing releases play a significant role in population maintenance, may be deemed "established," but only after such evidence as is available has been published in at least one scientific source (e.g., peer-reviewed journal, technical book), or after this evidence has been amassed by a Committee member or some other interested individual and reviewed by the Committee. In the last instance, a detailed analysis of the issue must be published in a suitable scientific source if a judgment of Establishment is rendered by the Committee. Furthermore, by extension, the requirement for publication applies to species considered "established" under section 3a as well.

(c.) Species that occur or have occurred in Florida as a result of unassisted vagrancy or dispersal from an Exotic population outside Florida, which clearly meets all tests of Establishment within their range, shall be evaluated as if they were Naturally Appearing even though they are Exotic. Thus, the placement of the House Finch on the State List, for example, does not require that it be evaluated for Establishment within Florida.

Currently, the LBRC Bylaws have the following guidelines to add an Introduced Species:

(9) Addition or removal of Introduced Species to the State List. Introduced species may be added to or removed from the Review List at the discretion of the LBRC based on periodic assessments of the species' status outside and inside the State. In general, if a colonization event (originating either from outside or from within Louisiana) is in progress, then a species will be added to the Review List in order to encourage documentation of the spread and establishment of the species in Louisiana. A species will not automatically be added to the Review List if represented only by a single and/or localized group of individuals. Feral individuals of species already on the State List are not countable (e.g., Canada Goose) if the feral population is not additionally accepted as an Introduced Species. a) Addition to the State List. The LBRC will review records of breeding populations of introduced species not on the State List but only if evidence is submitted that attempts to prove the correct identification of the species and the viability of the population. To be judged viable, a population must (1) be documented breeding in the state for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years, (2) have numbers of individuals increasing or stabilized after an initial period of increase, and (3) be judged to have occupied geographically contiguous suitable habitat to such a degree as to sustain the population and (4) be judged unlikely to significantly diminish. A population maintained primarily by recurrent releases, either intentional or accidental, or requiring intense management for survival, shall not be considered viable.

Further considerations/discussion?

To monitor population status, the LBRC requested breeding documentation and added Monk Parakeet to the Review List in 2010: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/newsletter2009.pdf>. (Note that placement on the Review List in this case did not equal addition to the state list.) Only a few reports were submitted. LBRC Members generally agreed that status in the Greater New Orleans area, as well as statewide (at least numbers of individuals) can now be easily monitored by eBird lists. This brought up the question whether to retain the species on the Review List. A vote was taken to remove Monk Parakeet from the Review List. All Members were in favor of its removal except Nancy L. Newfield, who abstained from the vote. Monk Parakeet is thus removed from the Review List.

LBRC and eBird reviewers

The Committee discussed being able to evaluate eBird submissions for Review List species with the goal to have a Committee-based near-real time review of a record to CONFIRM an eBird entry. Cardiff also mentioned that J. V. Remsen (state eBird reviewer) was in favor of receiving review assistance from the LBRC due to the increasingly overwhelming volume of lists being submitted. Cardiff had previously sent out a map showing tentative parishes/areas that the individual Members might consider “adopting” for at least unofficial list reviews, with the state reviewer to be notified of any questionable sightings. We discussed whether best to have Members vet eBird lists based on geographic subdivisions versus assigning groups of species (because Members could receive an email notification for a rarity if they have their account set up to do so). The parish approach seemed most popular, and Members will commence monitoring eBird list submissions on a trial basis. We mentioned that it would be great if eBird could provide ‘long form’ type fields for state review list species so that all information was obtained.

During this discussion we noted our frustration that eBird does not have a “feral” option for Canada Goose in Louisiana (a category available for Mallard, which also occurs in Louisiana as both wild and feral). Members agreed that we need to encourage eBird to add a feral option for Canada Goose, especially considering that Canada Goose is a Review List species. True vagrant Canada Geese do occur and need to be flagged as different than feral geese.

Louisiana's First accepted record of Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)



Louisiana's first accepted Great White Heron (2016-045) was found by Debbie and Pat Gallacher at Grand Isle on 18 April 2016. It was seen by numerous observers until 5 May. Many photographs confirmed the identification including the one here on 21 April 2016 by Joan M. Garvey (Great White on right, Great Egret on left; note the white head plumes that suggest an adult). The greatest concern with confirming an extralimital Great White is to satisfactorily eliminate a possible leucistic Great Blue Heron. In this case, the combination of bill, legs, and facial skin colors are consistent with a Great White and not a leucistic Great Blue.

Two older reports were not accepted by the Committee: a single observer sight report from Delta NWR in March 1982, and a distantly photographed bird at Grand Terre (seen from Grand Isle) in January 1987 (photos ultimately considered inconclusive). An earlier record from New Orleans in October 1981 has not been reviewed.

Twentieth Report of 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: http://losbird.org/jlo/jlo_v8.pdf

The Louisiana Bird Records Committee (henceforth LBRC or Committee) was established in 1979 to evaluate and archive records of unusual species that occur in Louisiana. The LBRC strives to determine record acceptability to aid in understanding patterns of occurrence of rarities in the state. Each record (in the form of observers' written reports, copies of field notes, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, or specimens) is reviewed by each of nine elected LBRC Voting Members (in accordance with LBRC Bylaws, *LOS News* No. 87; Bylaws last amended 12 March 2011, viewable at <http://www.losbird.org>). All records submitted to the LBRC are archived at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (henceforth LSUMNS) or the LBRC webpages. Records included in this Report were resolved in "electronic rounds" e-147 (part), e-157, e-158, e-159, and from Discussion Round votes (part) at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The following LBRC Members (past and present) evaluated records contained in this LBRC Report: Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann, John K. Dillon, Robert C. Dobbs, James L. Ingold, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Nancy L. Newfield, Larry R. Raymond, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Phillip A. Wallace.

The *Twentieth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee* includes 125 records, of which the identification of 94 is accepted. Eight of those 94 records were not accepted due to questions regarding wild origin. The relatively low acceptance rate of 69% (65% in the *Nineteenth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee*) reflects a relatively high proportion of problematic older reports, many of which were awaiting additional documentation that was never received. All (older) records posted on the "View Pending Reports" pages (pages 1-6, as of April 2017) at the LOS LBRC website: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/viewreport.html> are resolved in this report or currently under review. A backlog of never-reviewed older paper records remains in the LBRC files which, again, include many held back from review because the LBRC was hoping to receive additional reports or photographs. Because no additional information has been forthcoming, review of these older reports will proceed with information currently in-hand. Accepted records now visible on the Pending Pages will ultimately be moved to the Photo and Record Gallery pages: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/reviewlist.html>

This LBRC Report adds one subspecies to the State List: Great Blue Heron (White form; *Ardea herodias occidentalis*). The official State List total remains at 482 species. Other highlights in this report include the third occurrence of Mexican Violetear and the fourth accepted occurrences of Long-tailed Jaeger and Red Phalarope.

The Committee maintains, and annually reassesses, a *Review List* of species that have been confirmed at least once in Louisiana. As per guidelines in the LBRC Bylaws, species qualify for the Review List if they average four or fewer *accepted* occurrences annually averaged over the preceding ten-year period. A species may remain on the *Review List* (despite exceeding the threshold for "de-listing") when the LBRC has judged that the difficulty of identification warrants keeping that species on the list or because the number of actual *accepted* records *on file* is substantially fewer than the total number of reports generated by the birding community. The *Review List* remains at 152 species (about 31% of species on the State List). The current *Review List* can be found on p. 19-20 and also online: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/LBRC%20Review%20List%202016.pdf>

Once a species has been removed, the LBRC will continue to accept and review reports from prior to the date of a species' removal from the Review List. This LBRC Report includes records of six species previously removed from the Review List: Cinnamon Teal, Allen's Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Bell's Vireo, Cave Swallow, and Western Tanager. The removal date is noted at the end of these species' accounts.

Records in this Report are organized in taxonomic order as per the American Ornithological Society *Checklist of North American Birds*, incorporating changes through the 57th Supplement (2016): <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php> For each species, records are arranged chronologically. Where possible for each record, individuals are identified by age and plumage.

A LBRC record submission consists of written documentation received by the LBRC. The name of the submitting observer(s) follows all accepted records. As per LBRC policy, submitting observers are not listed for unaccepted reports (including those unaccepted based on origin). The following abbreviation follows the observer's name for the following ancillary documentation *reviewed in original form*: photographic (ph), specimen (LSUMZ), recordings (audio), necropsy (initials and prep number) and banding (band number) data, and Important Bird Record card file data (card). If the original discoverer(s) is known and submitted a report, then their name is **boldfaced**; if the discoverer is known but he/she did not submit a report, then they are mentioned at the end of the record entry. eBird submissions do not currently constitute an LBRC submission and are only referenced herein in those cases for which a record's date range is extended and the eBird report is accompanied by an identifiable photograph; the eBirder is not acknowledged. The LBRC record archives, as well as all specimens reported herein, are housed at LSUMNS. For archival purposes, the LBRC will accept additional reports/documentation or corrections for any record that has been resolved. If this documentation contains information that could alter the original outcome of the review, then the report will be re-circulated with that 'new' information (e.g., see Bullock's Oriole, LBRC 2011-125, in this report).

Other abbreviations used: Blvd. (=Boulevard); CBC (=Christmas Bird Count); Dr. (=Drive); Hwy. (=Highway); Ln. (=Lane); mi. (=mile/miles); Peveto Woods Sanctuary (=Baton Rouge Audubon Society Peveto Woods Sanctuary at Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish; also =Peveto Beach Woods, used in previous LBRC Reports); NWR (=National Wildlife Refuge); Rd. (=Road); SP (=State Park); St. (=Street); TNC (=The Nature Conservancy); WMA (=Wildlife Management Area). Compass directions are abbreviated and capitalized (e.g., W = west of). Parish names are italicized. Latitude and longitude are recorded in decimal degrees. "Sureway Woods" used in previous Reports =TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract. Note that Johnsons Bayou (used here and in previous LBRC reports) = Johnson Bayou or Johnson's Bayou (also commonly used).

The LBRC sincerely thanks all who submitted records or contributed expert advice included in record reviews for this Report: Colin Boeh, Matthew L. Brady, Christopher G. Brantley, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, John H. Boyd III, Steven W. Cardiff, William S. Clark, Paul E. Conover, John K. Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Bill Etter, Thomas Finney, Debbie and Pat Gallacher, Joan M. Garvey, Jennifer Gibson, Marty Guidry, Gypsy Hanks, Jeffery W. Harris, Valerie Heemstra, Jay V. Huner, Erik I. Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Billy Jones, Denis Kay, Alan Kneidel, Christine Kooi, Daniel F. Lane, Stephen M. Locke, Charles E. Lyon, Mary Mehaffey, Michael J. Musumeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers III, Nancy L. Newfield, Dan O'Malley, Glenn Ousset, Matt Pardue, Dave Patton, Jelmer Poelstra, Larry R. Raymond, Edward J. Raynor, J. V. Remsen, Janine Robin, Jeff Shenot, John P. Sevenair, Jody Shugart, Joshua Sylvest, Claire Thomas, Tom Trenchard, Phillip Vasseur, Curtis Walker, Phillip A. Wallace, Zeke Watkins, Natalie Waters, John Whittle, David Whipple, Jon Wise, Jonathan Zell, and T. J. Zenzal.

The following 86 records were accepted:

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

One (2016-002) on 16 December 2016, *Cameron*: Lake Arthur, Lacassane Lodge, 2500 Old Stripe Rd., Illinois Plantation, approximately 5 mi. SSW Thornwell off Goose Island Rd.; Phillip A. Wallace (ph). This record is further designated "origin hypothetical" (several Members did not accept outright wild origin).

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

One immature (2016-049) on 14-29 December 2016, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, Pintail Loop; Michael J. Musumeche (ph), Jody Shugart (ph), Jay V. Huner (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), Jon Wise (ph), Christine Kooi, Mary Mehaffey (ph), Robert C. Dobbs (ph), Thomas Finney (ph only), and J. V. Remsen (ph only). End date based on last record submitted to eBird with associated photo documentation.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)

One male (2012-093) on 15 January 2012, *Tangipahoa*: Ponchatoula, Ponchatoula Wastewater Treatment facility, S of Hwy. 22 and E of I-55/Hwy. 51; Christopher G. Brantley (ph).

One male (2014-003) on 15-16 January 2014, *Tangipahoa*: Ponchatoula, Ponchatoula Wastewater Treatment facility, S of Hwy. 22 and E of I-55/Hwy. 51; Mary Mehaffey (ph) and Janine Robin (ph).

Cinnamon Teal was removed from the Review List on 14 March 2015.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Two (2011-033) on 29 January 2011; *Cameron*: approximately 4 mi. SW Johnsons Bayou; Paul E. Conover.

One female (2011-029) on 9, 14 February 2011, *St. Martin*: Lake Martin; Matt Pardue (ph).

One female-type (2014-113) on 3 December 2014, *St. Tammany*: Slidell, Howze Beach off Oak Harbor Blvd. and West End Ave.; Devin Bosler (ph).

One first winter (2017-001) on 3, 8, and 28 January 2017, *Cameron*: offshore at town of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph).

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

One female found freshly dead (2016-014) on 25 May 2016, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approximately 3 mi. SE Cameron; Angela Trahan (ph).

One immature female (2016-050) on 18 December 2016, *Cameron*: along Holly Beach; B. Mac Myers III (ph).

One male (2017-002) on 15 January 2017, *Cameron*: offshore at town of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph) and Dave Patton (ph only).

One (2017-006) on 28 January and presumably the same individual 5 February 2017, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach, ranging from 0.5-2.7 mi. W camps; Paul E. Conover (ph).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

One (2011-145) on 20 April 2011, *Cameron*: Willow Island, approximately 6 mi. E Cameron; Devin Bosler (ph).

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)

Four (2008-027) on 6 March 2008, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, LSU Aquaculture Research Station, approximately 3 mi. S LSU Campus; Justin Bosler.

One (2014-124) on 14 November 2014, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, University Lakes; Oscar Johnson (ph).

Mexican Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*)

One (2016-019) on 11-12 July 2016, *Bienville*: Arcadia, 2426 Jot Em Down Dr., John K. Dillon (ph) and Charles E. Lyon (ph, right). First observed by homeowner on 10 July and last observed on 14 July 2016. This is just the third Louisiana occurrence (previously accepted as Green Violet-ear).

**Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)**

One immature male (2011-031) on 3-11 February 2011, *St. Tammany*: Covington, 104 Penn Mill Lakes Blvd.; Tom Trenchard (ph) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded H43495 on 3 February, banding data only).

Allen's Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 16 March 2013.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

One adult female (2016-052) on 7 October 2016-12 March 2017, *Terrebonne*: Houma, 4815 Grand Caillou Rd., N29.475, W 90.708333; Stephen M. Locke (ph), Nancy L. Newfield (banded K26609), and **Jennifer Gibson** (ph only). Last observed date *fide* Nancy L. Newfield/Jennifer Gibson.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) - continued

One immature male (2016-037) on 3 November-15 December 2016, *Jefferson*: Metairie, 4900 Page Dr., N30.0249, W90.2089; David Whipple (ph) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded, K26603). Last observed date based on eBird report that included a photograph.

One immature female (2016-040) on 20 November 2016-17 January 2017, *St. Tammany*: Covington, Swallow St., Janine Robin (ph) and Claire Thomas (ph). Banded by Linda Beall at the Peggy Daigle residence.

One adult female (2017-003) on 4 February 2017, *Assumption*: Bayou L'Ourse, 144 Elaine Dr., N29.713, W91.0779; Nancy L. Newfield (banded K26620) and Stephen M. Locke (audio and ph only). Apparently discovered on Facebook page by Kevin Morgan after photo posted by homeowner Cristie Alleman who reported that the bird first appeared in November 2016.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One vocalizing (2016-013) on 22 April 2016, *Cameron*: Lighthouse Woods at Sabine Pass, Oscar Johnson (audio). eBird link: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S29132243> Reportedly found by Andre Moncrieff.

Two vocalizing (2016-035) on 28-29 October 2016, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approximately 3 mi. SE Cameron, N29.7774°, W93.2812°; Erik I. Johnson (audio), Daniel F. Lane (audio), and Jay V. Huner.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

One (2015-077) on 17-18 October 2015, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Hwy. 11, main pond; David P. Muth (ph). This is only the fourth accepted Louisiana occurrence.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

One juvenile (2016-023) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: 19 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.80°, W88.93°; Joan M. Garvey (ph, right with Cory's Shearwater, LBRC 2016-025), Robert C. Dobbs (ph), and Oscar Johnson (ph). This is the fourth accepted Louisiana occurrence.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

One second-cycle immature (2011-026) on 26 February 2011, *Cameron*: 2 mi. W town of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph).

One first-cycle immature (2012-125) on 17 March 2012, *Cameron*: 2 mi. W Holly Beach; Dave Patton (ph).

One immature (2013-103) on 16 March 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Seabrook Bridge; Justin Bosler (ph).

One immature (2016-046) on 20 April 2016, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Whiskey Island, N29.0488°, W90.8168°; Robert C. Dobbs.

One immature (2016-047) on 20 April and 4 May 2016, *Jefferson* and *Lafourche*: along beach westward of Elmer's Island WMA; Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff. This was a different individual from previously accepted LBRC 2016-008 published in the *Nineteenth Report*.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One adult (2011-144) on 1-5 March 2011, *Jefferson*: Elmer's Island WMA; Colin Boeh (ph).

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)

One male (2012-115) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 46 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.26262°, W89.35269°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185530) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10598).

One male (2012-117) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 46 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.26262°, W89.35269°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185531) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10599).



Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) - continued

One male (2012-121) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 46 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River. N28.26262°, W89.35269°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185532) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10600).

One female (2012-123) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 46 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.27215°, W89.36317°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185526) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10564).

One female (2012-116) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 35 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.42282°, W89.46610°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185527) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10565).

One male (2012-120) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 35 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.41905°, W89.44571°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185525) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10563).

Two males (2012-119) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 47 mi. S mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.24936°, W89.35320°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185528, 185529) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10569, 10597).

One female (2012-118) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 28 mi. SW mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.6644°, W89.76315°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185523) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10561).

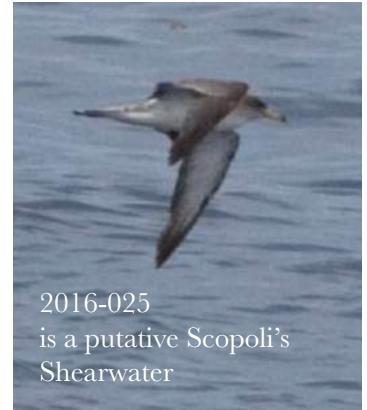
One female (2012-122) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 28 mi. SW mouth Southwest Pass Mississippi River, N28.6644°, W89.76315°; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 185524) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD10562).

Two (2016-025) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: 17-21 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.80°, W88.93°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph, right) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

Fourteen (2016-026) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 22 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.73°, W88.88°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

Six (2016-027) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 16 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.79°, W88.07°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

One (2016-055) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 10 mi. SSE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.83°, W89.12°; Oscar Johnson (ph).



2016-025
is a putative Scopoli's
Shearwater

Regardless of subspecies submitted as (e.g. identified to subspecies *C. d. diomedea* or *C. d. borealis*), all Cory's Shearwaters accepted above are accepted only as 'Cory's Shearwater complex,' which may include Cape Verde Shearwater (*C. edwardsi*). The Committee will re-address accepted specimen and photographic records at a later time when more definitive information is available to allow confident identification of these taxa. Specimens identified as both *C. d. diomedea* or *C. d. borealis* have been collected in state waters, but "intermediates" have also been reported in U.S. waters. For more information see Howell (2012) and Howell and Patteson (2008).

Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)

One (2016-028) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 17 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.841°, W88.962°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

Three (2016-029) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 22 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.73°, W88.88°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

One (2016-057) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 16 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.79°, W88.07°; Oscar Johnson (ph).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

One adult (2015-076) on 3 December 2015, *Pointe Coupee*: Morganza Spillway Forebay; J. V. Remsen (ph).

One immature (2016-023) on 10 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 22 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River, N28.73°, W88.88°; Robert C. Dobbs (ph) and Oscar Johnson (ph).

One adult (2016-058) on 10 September 2016, *Plaquemines*: Mississippi River near Pilottown, N29.19°, W89.27°; Oscar Johnson (ph).

Two adults (2016-030) on 25 September 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: 125 mi. S mouth Mississippi River; Zeke Watkins (ph).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) - continued

One adult (2106-033) on 22 October 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 179 mi. S Isles Dernieres, Raccoon Island, N26.4518°, W91.0694°; Richard Armstrong and Ginger Rose (ph only).

One (2016-038) on 8-9 November 2016, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles Industrial Canal, N30.1150°, W 93.2917°; Denis Kay (ph).

Great Blue Heron (White form) (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)

One (2016-045) from 18 April-5 May 2016, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle; **Debbie and Pat Gallacher**, Joan M. Garvey (ph), Erik Johnson (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff (ph), and J. V. Remsen (ph only).

One (2016-041) on 16 November and presumably the same individual on 2 December 2016, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Whiskey Island, N29.04770°, W90.82324°; Jessica Schulz (ph) and Robert C. Dobbs (ph, right).

These are the first accepted occurrences of this subspecies in Louisiana.



White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

One (2013-102) on 17 October 2013, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82, approximately 5 mi. W town of Holly Beach; Devin Bosler (ph).

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)

One (2010-118) on 8-9 May 2010, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

One (2010-101) on 11-12 March 2010, *Iberville*: Sherburne WMA, South Farm; Joshua Sylvest and Mary Mehaffey.

Say's Phoebe was removed from the Review List on 14 March 2015.

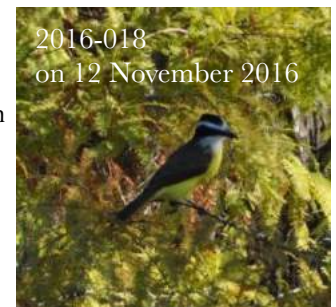
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

One (2016-039) on 12, 18 November 2016, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Recovery Road; Joan M. Garvey (ph), Janine Robin (ph), and J. V. Remsen (ph).

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

One (2016-018) on 9, 25 June and presumably the same individual still present on 3, 11 November 2016, *Calcasieu*: Moss Bluff, Sam Houston Jones State Park; **Deanna Griggs**, Erik I. Johnson, Billy Jones (ph), and Edward J. Raynor (ph, right).

Three, including one fledgling (2016-021) on 4-5 August 2016, *Cameron*: Grand Chenier, 1.5 mi. E Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge headquarters; Erik I. Johnson (ph).



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)

One (2016-059) on 19 April 2016, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Daniel F. Lane (ph).

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

One (2011-036) on 9 January-13 March 2011, *Plaquemines*: Braithwaite, Caernarvon Outfall Canal; Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), Devin Bosler (ph), Jeffrey Harris, and Jay V. Huner. (ph). Presumably one of the same two birds returning for a second winter (see LBRC 2010-058, *Fourteenth Report*, 2011). This record was referenced in the *Eighteenth Report* (2013), but had inadvertently never been actually published.

One (2012-063) on 8 January-9 March 2012, *Plaquemines*: Braithwaite, Caernarvon Outfall Canal; Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph), and Jay V. Huner. Presumably, the same bird returning for a third winter.

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

One (2010-109) on 26 September 2010, *Lafourche*: 30050 Hwy. 1, 1.75 mi. E Port Fourchon; Devin Bosler (ph). This report was submitted as a Tropical Kingbird but is accepted here only to "complex." Some LBRC Members were convinced that the very long bill shown in the photos did support the identification as Tropical, but the majority accepted to complex only because this individual remained silent throughout the observation and no other diagnostic characters could be confirmed.

One (2010-110) on 27 September 2010, *Cameron*: Oak Grove (Rutherford Motel Woods); Melvin Weber (ph). This report was submitted as a Couch's Kingbird but is accepted here only to "complex." Some LBRC Members were convinced that the relatively short, broad bill shown in the photos did support the identification as Couch's, but the majority accepted to complex only because this individual remained silent throughout the observation and no other diagnostic characters could be confirmed.

One (2016-001) on 2 January and presumably the same individual on 13 March 2016, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Eastover, Lake Forest Blvd. at I-510 Service Road; Janine Robin (ph) and David P. Muth (ph). Reportedly found by Joelle Finley and Ken Harris on the New Orleans CBC. Submitted as a Tropical and apparently heard by some observers giving diagnostic Tropical vocalizations. However, there were no first-hand descriptions of voice and the report is accepted here only to "complex."

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

One (2016-036) on 2-5 November 2016, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 700 Cajundome Blvd., USGS-NOAA complex; Robert C. Dobbs (ph, audio) and Dave Patton (ph, audio).

One (2016-043) from 2 December 2016-4 March 2017, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, Fontainebleau State Park; Janine Robin (ph), J. V. Remsen (ph), Christopher G. Brantley (ph), Jay V. Huner (ph), and Oscar Johnson (ph). End date based on last eBird report that included a photograph.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

One (2016-017) on 30 May 2016, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, N29.210849, W90.052162; Curtis Walker (ph).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

One (2009-101) on 26 December 2009 and presumably the same individual on 2 January and 7 February 2010, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Little Woods, woodlot near intersection of Paris Rd. and Hayne Blvd.; David P. Muth (ph).

One breeding male (2011-148) on 13 June 2011, *Bossier*: riparian area 0.4 mi. N Bass Pro Shop on East Texas Street Bridge; Jay V. Huner.

Bell's Vireo was removed from the Review List on 15 March 2015.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)

One (2016-053) on 15 May 2016, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph).

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

One (2015-074) on 19 April 2015, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Jefferson St. at intersection of Paula Ave.; David P. Muth.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Six (2010-104) on 11 September 2010, *Vermilion*: approximately 5 mi. W Gueydan; Michael J. Musumecche (ph).

Cave Swallow was removed from the Review List 12 March 2011.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)

One adult male (2016-051) on 27 December 2016, *Caddo*: Gilliam Airport, on Gilliam Airport Rd. off Hwy. 3049, N32.84033°, W93.84406°; Jelmer Poelstra (audio).

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)

One (2011-030) on 6 February 2011, *Plaquemines*: Triumph, Morrell's Woods near pumping station off Hwy. 23; Phillip A. Wallace (ph). Reportedly found by David P. Muth.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

One (2016-022) on 10 September 2016, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph).

One (2016-056) on 21 October 2016, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; B. Mac Myers III (ph).

One immature male (2016-042) on 11-12 November 2016, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilletta Tract; Matthew L. Brady, Joan M. Garvey (ph), and Oscar Johnson (ph only).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

One adult male (2010-102) on 27 April 2010, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilletta Tract; Tom Trenchard.

One (2011-106) on 22 October 2011, *Plaquemines*: Diamond; Devin Bosler (ph).

Western Tanager was removed from the Review List 16 March 2013.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

One (2010-093) on 28 December 2010 and presumably the same individual on 6 January 2011, *Lafayette*: Deer Park Trail, Riverwoods Subdivision, 3.1 km NNE Milton; Erik I. Johnson.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

One adult male (2010-096) from 1 October-7 December 2010, *Jefferson*: Metairie, Casa Colibri, 3016 45th St.; Nancy L. Newfield.

One in female plumage (2011-125) on 30 October 2011, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Rosemary Seidler (ph) and Devin Bosler (ph). This record was previously reviewed and was not accepted during a Fourth Circulation Discussion Vote (record not previously published). Following receipt of additional documentation, it was reevaluated and accepted.

One immature male (2017-005) on 24 March 2017, *Lafourche*: Thibodaux, 106 Cedar St.; Natalie Waters (ph).

The identification of the following 31 records was not accepted:**Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)**

One male (2005-055) on 29 November 2005, *Cameron*: Sabine NWR, pool behind Visitor's Center. A male Cinnamon Teal is a conspicuous duck and males are easy-to-identify under most circumstances. However, this particular report was submitted years after the observation and was based on memory. It also involved a distant individual and the observer provided understandably few descriptive details. Although quite probably correctly identified, Members did not believe that the documentation was adequate, especially in regard to ruling out a potential hybrid.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

One adult male (2011-034) on 18 January 2011, *Rapides*: 0.2 mi. from I-49 overpass at Hwy. 121 X Hwy 1. The report was not accepted by a one vote margin. It is important to describe plumage detail even for obvious and well-marked species and Members who voted not to accept specifically cited that the description was superficial and left too much to their imagination. In addition, Members also noted that the reported size relative to other duck species present was not correct.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

Eleven (2016-048) on 11 December 2016, *Union*: Farmerville, Lake D'Arbonne (ph). Although distant, it was determined that the photographs actually show only Northern Pintail and Canvasback.

White-crowned Pigeon (*Patagioenas leucocephala*)

One (2016-016) on 7 May 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: approximately 200 mi. SSE mouth Mississippi River; N26.1877°, W88.1516°. Most Members considered this an intriguing report that occurred at the outer boundary of the state's offshore waters. A first state occurrence requires hard evidence and, unfortunately, no photos were obtained.

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

One (2010-099) on 4 December 2010, *St. Charles*: Bonnet Carre Spillway. The early winter date may be more suggestive of this species, and perhaps this bird was correctly identified. However, no definitive characters were observed.

One (2016-044) on 15 April 2016, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Exxon Fields along Hwy. 1 at the TNC Office, N29.248°, W89.968°. This sighting involved a brief fly-by without the aid of binoculars. All Members ultimately agreed that the circumstances did not warrant acceptance.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)

Four (2009-080) on 15 November 2009, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 1967 Tulip St. These birds were heard but the observer did not describe what the birds sounded like other than that they "did not sound like Chimney Swift." All Members believed that this species may likely have been involved based on probability, but supporting details were not adequate for acceptance.

Two (2010-092) on 29 November 2010, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 1967 Tulip St. These swifts were not heard and no other diagnostic characters were confirmed. Thus, most Members chose not to accept the report.

Two (2011-023) on 5 March 2011, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 1967 Tulip St. All Members believed the description was not adequate to support identification of these silent swifts.

Two (2011-019) on 21 March 2011, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, City Park Lake. This was a brief description of silent individuals and, given the date, the observer did not make a sufficient case to eliminate Chimney Swift.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One (2012-155) on 29 December 2012, *Ascension*: approximately 1 mi. NW intersection of Motavit Rd. and Hwy. 61. This is a heard-only report of a "growl" call. All Members believed that the details were not adequate to support the identification.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Two light to intermediate juveniles (2014-114) on 18 September 2014, *Caddo*: Shreveport, Cross Lake, John M. Ford Regional Park. The observation was hampered by distance and the identification was based almost entirely on "jizz." The observer was not able to see and count the white rachises on the outer primaries, a field mark that is extremely important to separate Long-tailed from other jaegers. Other plumage details important in ascertaining age were also not described: under wing barring, rump pattern, leg color, etc. All Members ultimately believed that the photographs and description did not support identification of a potential first interior and fourth overall Louisiana occurrence.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

One second-winter male (1999-133) on 28 March 1999, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 just W town of Holly Beach. Most Members agreed that the description was too superficial and did not eliminate a small 2nd year Herring Gull or similar gull hybrids. Additionally the report was based on memory and lacked supporting field notes.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) - continued

One third-year/basic adult (2010-105) on 23 October 2010, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approximately 2 mi. SE Cameron (ph). Only two photos were submitted, of which one was suggestive of this species. Some Members argued that the same individual gull was not represented in both photos. Ultimately a majority of Members believed that neither photograph convincingly supported identification of this species.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

One first-winter (2009-012) on 25 January 2009, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Seabrook Bridge (ph). This was a small and very pale-colored individual that most Members believed was more suggestive of a Thayer's-Kumlien's intergrade. The report was not accepted as an outright Thayer's, but could be revisited pending future taxonomic decisions relevant to the Thayer's-Iceland gull complex.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoideus*)

One first-summer (2011-016) on 8 April 2011, *Jefferson*: beach at Grand Isle. All Members believed that the photographs clearly showed a gull too large to be an Iceland Gull and were a better match for a Glaucous Gull or some sort of white-winged gull hybrid.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

One first-winter (2012-123) on 10 March 2012, *Cameron*: Holly Beach. The photograph clearly shows an individual different than Glaucous Gull LBRC 2012-125 (previously accepted at this locality). This record went to a Fourth Circulation Discussion Vote. Following discussion, three Members voted not to accept because they were concerned by its apparently small size, longish- and somewhat slender bill, and a large-eyed look that better suggested a hybrid rather than a runt Glaucous Gull. Accepting Members believed the smaller size was not a deal-breaker and that a small Glaucous Gull was possible (including small *barrovianus* subspecies of Western U.S.).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One third-year (2010-115) on 16 August 2010, *Cameron*: beach 1 mi. W town of Holly Beach; (ph). All Members agreed that the photographs were not sufficient to eliminate other species or hybrids.

One third-year (2010-097) on 24 September 2010, *Plaquemines*: beach on Chalant Headlands (ph). The description was considered by some Members too brief and the observer did not discuss or eliminate a subadult Kelp Gull or darker-mantled versions of Chandeleur Gull (<http://gull-research.org/papers/04chandeleur.pdf>), which the photographs also did not eliminate.

One in definitive plumage (2012-150) on 25 November and 6 December 2012, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Whiskey Island, bay side restoration area. Observations on two dates were initially reviewed as separate records (add 2012-151) that were later combined because most Members believed that a single individual was probably involved in both sightings. Once combined, the record was resolved during a Fourth Circulation Discussion Vote. Following discussion, all Members believed that the very distant photos and rudimentary descriptions did not adequately support the identification and exclude other species or hybrids.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

Two 'white morph' adults (2011-018) on 21 March 2011, *Jefferson Davis*: N side of I-10 between mileposts 50-52. The observer provided too few details about the observation and the report had no actual description of the birds' plumage or structure to support species identification. Although the observer indicated familiarity with raptor species, there was no discussion about how Red-tailed Hawk or any other *Buteo* species was eliminated from consideration.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

One (2016-004) on 28 March 2016, *Vermilion*: Glady Rd. near Hwy. 699 X Jade Rd. (ph). The photo and description were not adequate to eliminate an immature Red-tailed Hawk.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

One adult male (2016-054) on 31 January and 8 February 2016, *Caldwell*: Columbia, Big Branch Rd., approximately 1.6 mi. from Beouf WMA (ph). This report received a split vote following the second circulation. Five Members ultimately tipped the scales against acceptance citing the following characters they believed better suggested an intergrade rather than a pure Red-naped: relatively broad white facial stripes including white postocular stripe that merges from both sides onto the red nape, red nape not solid, inadequate red bleed-in from the red throat to the black mustache stripe, and broader than typical white back patterning.

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)

One (2010-103) on 19, 23-24, and 27 October 2010, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary (ph). Multiple reports were combined as one record for the purpose of this review because: 1) fall migrants can remain for several days, and 2) subsequent observers who submitted reports were looking for a reported Western Wood-Pewee. It was unclear whether more than one individual was represented during the date range and the photos were not adequate to determine this. Given the opportunity, Committee Members chose not to review reports separately even though some Members did question whether the same bird was involved in photos taken on different days. Whereas some of the photographs suggested this species based on overall darkness of the plumage, most images were under-exposed. The photographed individual was silent, and a reportedly calling individual was not photographed. "Dark" Eastern Wood-Pewees are occasionally found and hybrids have also been confirmed. Ultimately, Members believed that descriptions were not adequate to assess critical features like head-back contrast to confirm species identification.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

One (2012-107) on 20 January 2012, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Recovery Rd., approximately 1 mi. from Hwy. 90. This is an interesting case because it is a report involving a potential 'stake-out' that would extend the last observed date of the previously accepted record. The description was brief and critical identification characters were not seen or described (e.g., details of the tail, voice, etc.). It is quite possible that the observer did see previously accepted LBRC 2012-040. Members also considered the observer may have submitted abbreviated details believing that this particular individual had already been well-documented. Because the observer *went to see* a Brown-crested wintering at this site, and because Ash-throated Flycatchers had also been reported in this area, all Members voted to not accept this report because of a lack of relevant identification characters that would allow elimination of Ash-throated Flycatcher.

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

One (2016-020) on 28 July 2016, *Lafourche*: S. end Hwy. 3090 at entrance to Fourchon Beach. This report involved a very brief observation of a fly-by without aid of binoculars and from within a car. Members realized that the experienced observer (an LBRC Member) probably got this one correct, but they also believed that the difficult circumstances prohibited certainty about the identification, even to "complex."

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

One (2010-100) on 27 April 2010, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou. This bird was captured for banding and in-hand measurements submitted to the LBRC were consistent for Bell's Vireo (and not White-eyed). Unfortunately, there was not an actual description of the bird's plumage, and no photos were submitted to support the identification. Therefore, given the exceptional rarity of the species during spring migration in southern Louisiana, Members were reluctant to accept.

One (2011-025) on 7 March 2011, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle TNC Landry-LeBlanc tract. The description was vague and it was not clear from the report how experienced was the observer with this species. Interestingly, the observer did mention that the bird was molting. Committee members noted that literature suggests a prealternate/spring molt should not occur in this species. Because the observer did not expand on the comment about molt, then

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) - continued

taken at face value the presence of active molt could be argued as not supporting an identification of Bell's Vireo. The date suggests a wintering bird (too early for a spring migrant and spring migrants accidental at best on SE coast) and Members noted that there were no other reports of Bell's from Grand Isle during winter 2010-2011 despite intense coverage by contract biologists assigned to the BP oil disaster.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)

One (2011-146) on 13 May 2011, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary. Despite the record being within the "expected" period of the species' occurrence, this potential 13th state record was supported by a relatively brief description noting a few basic field guide characters. Although all agreed that it was possibly correctly identified, a majority of Members believed that the rudimentary description was inadequate for acceptance. Sadly, documentation was submitted by only one of three observers.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

One (2011-151) on 13 April 2011, *Cameron*: Willow Island, approximately 5 mi. E Cameron. This record received a mixed vote following the third circulation, a majority ultimately deciding that the observer focused solely on a black whisker to identify this individual. Although dark whiskers are usually a definitive field character, creases along the feather tracts of the throat can create the illusion of a dark whisker. Photo records of birds believed to possess 'black whiskers' (and identified as Black-whiskered Vireos) have turned out to be Red-eyes upon closer inspection, with apparent dark whiskers simply an artifact of lighting or the bird's posture. Members voting to not accept also pointed to the observer's description of a bold whitish supercilium, a character that better supports Red-eyed Vireo.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

One female (2010-094) on 27 December 2010, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Blue Buck Ridge, Gray Estate, N of Hwy. 82 (ph). Dull immature Bullock's and Baltimore orioles present a notoriously tough identification. The photos, although suggestive, were ultimately deemed inconclusive. Immature female winter Baltimore Orioles can be very dull. The upper parts were not visible in the photos, which also did not support the observer's written description: "ghost pattern of male facial features quite obvious, showing darker eye line (transocular stripe) and brighter yellow supercilium." Most Members agreed that photos did not support the presence of an obvious dark transocular line or gray in the lores or posterior portion of the auriculars.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS: QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN

Wild origin of the following eight records was not accepted. In each case, a human-assisted scenario or introduced/feral source population was the most plausible as interpreted by a majority of Members.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Two (2010-139) on 19 March 2010, *Cameron*: marsh W Hwy. 27 near Hackberry (ph). The date of occurrence is generally outside the pattern of known winter visitors. That, combined with the locality from an area where feral Rockefeller Refuge geese have been nesting for years prompted all Members to question wild origin.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

Two juveniles (2010-006) from 26 January-21 February 2010, *Ouachita*: Hwy. 143 just N Bayou D'Arbonne bridge (ph, audio). Although three Members accepted as "origin hypothetical," a majority opted for non-acceptance based on questionable origin. Factoring into their decision was the birds' relative tameness and the species' availability in the pet trade. Although the species was at least a rare winter visitor historically, current status is complex and difficult to assess because of extensive reintroduction efforts across the northern U.S.

Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

Thirty-seven adults and juveniles (2010-113) on 19 July 2010, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Wright Rd. near Lake Forest Blvd (ph).

Two (2010-112) on 24 July 2010, *Jefferson*: Metairie, Power Blvd. (ph).

Nineteen (2011-153) on 14 January 2011, *Orleans*: New Orleans, City Park, Couturie Forest/Scout Island off Harrison Ave.

Eight breeding adults (2011-154) on 11 March 2011, *Jefferson*: Metairie, John C. Bright Playground, 3401 Cleary Ave. (ph).

Five (2011-159) on 9-10 April 2011, *Orleans*: New Orleans, west end Lake View, Entergy power substation NE corner of Fleur De Lis Dr. and Portland St. (ph).

Five (2011-152) on 15 November 2011, *Orleans*: New Orleans, 5543 Pratt Dr.

All indications are that this population is at least stable irrespective of provenance at the individual level or levels of recruitment by newly released cage birds. Member opinions differ regarding criteria required to add a species as Introduced to the state list. Members who vote against Introduced status focus on the small geographic scale of this species' area of establishment. The New Orleans area population of Monk Parakeet is not comparable to widespread introduced species such as Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, European Starling, or House Finch. In contrast to Monk Parakeet, these species arrived and expanded throughout the state, colonizing all available suitable areas/habitats. Despite decades of continuous presence, Monk Parakeets show no sign of expanding beyond the Greater New Orleans metro area. Although Monk Parakeet has been accepted as an Introduced (or established exotic) Species on many other state lists based on a similar pattern of *localized colonization* of urban areas, most LBRC Members remain opposed to adopting that approach. For additional discussion, see also p. 3-4 of the *Newsletter of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee Annual Meeting Report 2017*.

Corrigenda

Tenth Report of the LBRC, p. 63: **Bell's Vireo**: One (2004-43) on 25 Sep 2004, *Cameron*: approximately 1 mi. E of Rutherford Beach community; Paul E. Conover (ph); *NAB59*(1):93. The LBRC number is incorrect and is corrected to **2004-085**.

Eighteenth Report of the LBRC, p. 12: **Tropical Kingbird** LBRC 2012-152 should be combined with LBRC 2012-039 (See *Sixteenth Report*, 2013).

Acknowledgments

James M. Bishop, Paul E. Conover, Robert C. Dobbs, Nancy L. Newfield, and J. V. Remsen provided helpful comments on this manuscript.

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LBRC Review List

May 2017

Key:	Bold	Species known to hybridize with other species.
	<i>Italicized</i>	Hybrid(s) involving this parental species are documented for Louisiana.
	E?	Species is probably extinct.
	Q	Status on State List is in question and needs resolution.
	e	Species is extirpated in Louisiana (Whooping Crane re-introduction program in progress.)
	e/R	Reintroduction program in progress.

Brant
 Canada Goose (wild only)
 Trumpeter Swan (Q)
 Tundra Swan
Eurasian Wigeon
American Black Duck
 King Eider
 White-winged Scoter
 Long-tailed Duck
 Common Merganser
 Masked Duck
 Greater Prairie-Chicken (e)
 American Flamingo
 Least Grebe
 Red-necked Grebe
Western Grebe
 Band-tailed Pigeon
 Mangrove Cuckoo
 Smooth-billed Ani
 Lesser Nighthawk
 Antillean Nighthawk
 Vaux's Swift
 Mexican Violetear
 Green-breasted Mango
Magnificent Hummingbird
Blue-throated Hummingbird
Anna's Hummingbird
Broad-billed Hummingbird
 Black Rail
 Whooping Crane (e/R)
 Lesser Sand-Plover
 Mountain Plover
 Eskimo Curlew (E?)
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Ruff
 Curlew Sandpiper
 Purple Sandpiper
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Red Phalarope
 Long-tailed Jaeger

Razorbill
 Ancient Murrelet
 Black-legged Kittiwake
 Sabine's Gull
Black-headed Gull
 Little Gull
 Mew Gull
Western Gull
 California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Iceland Gull
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Kelp Gull
 Brown Noddy
 Arctic Tern
 Red-billed Tropicbird
 Red-throated Loon
 Pacific Loon
 Yellow-nosed Albatross
 Cory's Shearwater
 Great Shearwater
 Sooty Shearwater
 Manx Shearwater
 Audubon's Shearwater
 Leach's Storm-Petrel
 Jabiru
 Brown Booby
 Red-footed Booby
 Northern Goshawk
 Harris's Hawk
 White-tailed Hawk
 Zone-tailed Hawk
 Ferruginous Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
 Golden Eagle
 Flammulated Owl
 Snowy Owl
 Burrowing Owl
 Long-eared Owl

Northern Saw-whet Owl
 Ringed Kingfisher
 Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
 Ivory-billed Woodpecker (E?)
 Prairie Falcon
 Western Wood-Pewee
 Hammond's Flycatcher
 Gray Flycatcher
 Pacific-slope Flycatcher
 Cordilleran Flycatcher
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher
 Brown-crested Flycatcher
 Great Kiskadee
 Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
 Crowned Slaty Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Couch's Kingbird
 Cassin's Kingbird
 Gray Kingbird
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher
 Plumbeous Vireo
 Cassin's Vireo
 Yellow-green Vireo
 Black-whiskered Vireo
 Clark's Nutcracker
 Chihuahuan Raven
 Brown-chested Martin
 Rock Wren
 Northern Wheatear
 Mountain Bluebird
 Townsend's Solitaire
 Varied Thrush
 Curve-billed Thrasher
 Sage Thrasher
 White Wagtail
 Red Crossbill
 Lesser Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak

LBRC Review List (continued)

Chestnut-collared Longspur	Hermit Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Smith's Longspur	Red-faced Warbler	Hepatic Tanager
McCown's Longspur	Painted Redstart	Black-headed Grosbeak
Bachman's Warbler (E?)	Green-tailed Towhee	Blue Bunting
Lucy's Warbler	Spotted Towhee	Lazuli Bunting
Virginia's Warbler	Cassin's Sparrow	Varied Bunting
Connecticut Warbler	American Tree Sparrow	Shiny Cowbird
MacGillivray's Warbler	Brewer's Sparrow	Hooded Oriole
<i>Tropical Parula</i>	Lark Bunting	Bullock's Oriole
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Baird's Sparrow	Scott's Oriole
Townsend's Warbler	Pyrrhuloxia	

Observers should be aware that several species on the Review List are documented to hybridize with other species (**boldfaced**, and those species **italicized** indicates that hybrids have been documented in Louisiana) and, for that reason, it is important to address and eliminate a possible hybrid when documenting and reporting these species.

The LBRC requests documentation for records of any species not currently accepted on the State List. This includes species of captive/introduced origin not currently on the State List or Review List (e.g., Black Francolin and Ring-necked Pheasant). With the addition of Canada Goose to the Review List, the Committee is currently only interested in *wild individuals* and not those of feral origin (e.g., individuals associated with the introduced Rockefeller Refuge population, or other local resident populations scattered across the state).

The LBRC also requests documentation for occurrences of the following recognizable subspecies or forms: Great Blue "White" Heron, Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler, and non-"Slate-colored" forms of Dark-eyed Junco (e.g., "Gray-headed", "Oregon", and "Pink-sided" types have occurred in Louisiana). These have all been documented to occur in the state and fall within parameters to be on the Review List if considered a species. "Red-shafted" Flicker is not accepted on the State List but documentation is also requested for this subspecies. As for species listed on the Review List, it is also important to address hybrids/intergrades when reporting these subspecies or forms.

The Committee welcomes documentation of occurrences of species from periods when the species was on the Review List: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (removed 31 Mar 1990), Ross's Goose (removed 31 Mar 1990), American Black Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), Cinnamon Teal (added 7 Sep 1996; removed 14 Mar 2015), White-winged Scoter (added 11 Mar 1989), Long-tailed Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), Common Merganser (added 11 Mar 1989), Inca Dove (removed 25 Apr 1986), Eurasian Collared-Dove (Introduced Species, removed 7 Sep 1996), Lesser Nighthawk (added 11 Mar 1989), Buff-bellied Hummingbird (removed 29 Apr 1988), Calliope Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Broad-tailed Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Allen's Hummingbird (removed 16 March 2013), Yellow Rail (removed 23 Apr 1994), Lesser Black-backed Gull (removed 7 Sep 1996), Bridled Tern (removed 7 Sep 1996), Pomarine Jaeger (removed 7 Sep 1996), Parasitic Jaeger (removed 16 March 2013), Wilson's Storm-Petrel (removed 25 Apr 1986, reinstated 23 Apr 1994, removed again Sep 1999), Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (removed 7 Sep 2002), Northern Gannet (removed 25 Apr 1986), Masked Booby (removed 25 Sep 1999), White-tailed Kite (removed 11 Mar 1989), Swainson's Hawk (removed 29 Apr 1988), Golden Eagle (added 25 Apr 1986), Crested Caracara (added 18 May 1991; removed 8 Sep 2007), Burrowing Owl (added 7 Sep 2002), Say's Phoebe (14 Mar 2015), Willow Flycatcher (removed 14 Mar 2015), Alder Flycatcher (removed 23 Apr 1994), Ash-throated Flycatcher (removed 7 Sep 1996), Bell's Vireo (added 18 May 1991; removed 15 Mar 2015), Cave Swallow (removed 12 March 2011), House Finch (Introduced Species, removed 18 May 1991), Evening Grosbeak (added 7 Sep 1996), Western Tanager (added 11 Mar 1989; removed 16 March 2013), Black-headed Grosbeak (added 11 Mar 1989), Spotted Towhee (added 7 Sep 1996), and Bullock's Oriole (added 7 Sep 1996).

The LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of submitted photographs can be showcased in the Annual Newsletter and LBRC Report. Due to space limitations, photographs appearing in the LBRC Showcase pages are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons including (and these are well-represented herein): 1) to provide an image of the individual bird(s) accepted (whether by the person who found the bird, a photo taken within the record's date range of occurrence, or from the last day the bird was observed); 2) illustrate the importance of photographic documentation; 3) show the range of photographic images submitted to the LBRC for documentation (this page for example); 4) stress the importance of *all photographs* to the documentation process - whether or not they are blurry (but species still recognizable) or tack sharp. A grainy or poorly exposed photo can often be 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 - always have your camera handy or you might miss that "record" shot. The LBRC is very appreciative of the time and effort observers have expended to submit photo and written documentation to the Committee.

Please keep up the good work!

Showcase I: Geese through scoters



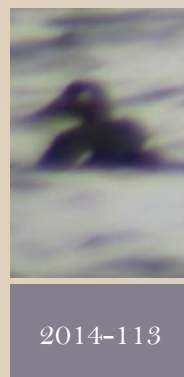
Phillip A. Wallace captured the size difference of this Canada Goose (2016-002) bracketed by Cackling Geese, about 5 mi. SSW Thornwell during the Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC on 16 December 2016. An unexpected find at Cameron Prairie NWR was an immature Tundra Swan (2016-049), present there during late December, and here photographed by Tom Finnie the day first reported on 14 December 2016.



Two older Cinnamon Teal records were accepted, both males and both found at the Ponchatoula Wastewater Treatment facility: LBRC 2012-093 was photographed by Chris Brantley, 15 January 2012, and LBRC 2014-003 was photographed by Mary Mehafeey exactly two years later on 15 January 2014.



Three of four accepted White-winged Scoter records were supported by photographs. Most unexpected was a female (2011-029) at Lake Martin, 14 February 2011 (two images below left by Matt Pardue). More typical coastal records included a female-plumaged individual (2014-113) at Slidell, 3 December 2014 (photo below middle by Devin Bosler), and one (2017-001) just off Holly Beach on 3 January 2017 (two images below right by Paul Conover).



Showcase 2: Long-tailed Duck through swifts



2016-014



2016-050

Four records of Long-tailed Duck were accepted, all supported by photographs. Top left is a female found freshly dead (2016-014) by Angela Trahan on Broussard Beach, 25 May 2016; unfortunately the specimen was not salvaged. A distant immature female (2016-050, above far right,) was photographed by B. Mac Myers III off Holly Beach on 18 December 2016 (Lesser Scaup to left for size comparison). The male (2017-002) below left was also off Holly Beach on 15 January 2017 (photo by Dave Patton). Observations by Paul E. Conover off Rutherford Beach on 28 January 2017 (opposite right, top photo) and 5 February 2017 (opposite right, bottom photo) likely pertained to the same individual (2017-006).



2017-006



2017-002



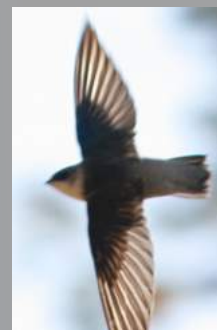
2011-145

This photo (right) of a roosting Lesser Nighthawk (2011-145) was obtained by Devin Bosler at Willow Island, Cameron Parish, 20 April 2011. To review characters used to identify nighthawks see LBRC Newsletter 2015: pages 34-38: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/Newsletter2015.pdf>

Oscar Johnson provided a series of photographs of this silent *Chaetura* swift foraging above University Lake, Baton Rouge, on 14 November 2014. The bird was identified as a Vaux's Swift (2014-124) in the field, and the Committee agreed that the combination of overall size and shape, wing shape, contrasting paler rump to darker mantle, and more extensively pale under parts were sufficient to eliminate a Chimney Swift.



2014-124



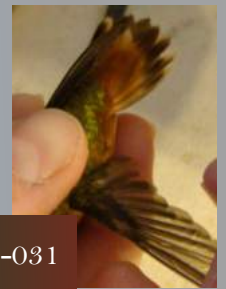
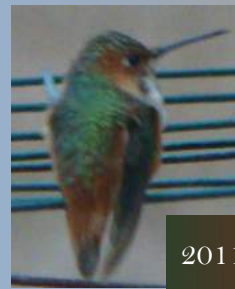
Showcase 3: Hummingbirds



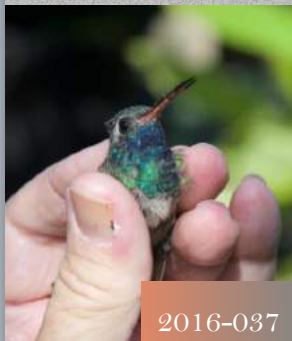
John Dillon was the first birder on the scene to document this Mexican Violetear (photo at left; 2016-019) in Arcadia on 11 July 2016. See pages 1 and 8 for additional photos of this third state (and first N. LA) occurrence.

Although Allen's Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 16 March 2013, there are still a number of unreviewed older reports. Included in this report is this immature male (2011-031), which was photographed by Tom Trenchard at his feeder in Covington. The bird has finished all of its body molt by 3 February (left two photos below), except for the gorget. So, at that point, identification as an Allen's was relatively straightforward based on the green back. Identification was further confirmed during an in-hand examination by Nancy L. Newfield when it was banded later that same day.

Fall-winter 2016-2017 was an exceptional period for Broad-billed Hummingbird with six occurrences, including four documented in this report (four sets of images below, left to right). Three were banded by Nancy L. Newfield. First (2016-037) was an immature male in Metairie, where finder David Whipple snapped a series of photos (far left) during banding on 4 November 2016, followed by two adult females included one at Houma (2016-052; left-middle) photographed by Stephen M. Locke during banding on 17 December 2016, and the other (2017-003) in extreme S. Assumption Parish, here (right-middle) photographed by Stephen M. Locke during banding on 4 February 2017. The second-earliest occurrence of the period was an immature female (2016-040) at Covington on 20 November 2016, banded the same day by Linda Beall and photographed by Claire Thomas (upper right) and Janine Robin (lower right).



2016-040



Showcase 4: Shorebirds through gulls

Although distorted, these two digiscoped images (right) of a Red Phalarope (2015-077), taken by David P. Muth at Bayou Sauvage NWR on 17 October 2015, were considered adequate to rule-out other species.

2015-077

2016-023



This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger (2016-023) only 19 mi. off the mouth of the Mississippi River, put on a show for a 10 September 2016 pelagic trip. Robert C. Dobbs' image (left) shows relative size as it chased a Cory's Shearwater. Oscar Johnson's photo series (below) illustrates field characters to identify this fourth accepted occurrence: overall proportions, rounded central rectrices, white limited to the shafts of the two outermost primaries, and white bands on the under tail coverts.



2016-023



2011-026



2012-125



2013-103



2016-047

Four of five Glaucous Gulls in this report were documented by photographs. From left to right, one second cycle (2011-026) photographed by Paul E. Conover along Holly Beach, 26 February 2011; a first cycle (2012-125) photographed by Dave Patton, also on Holly Beach, 17 March 2012; an immature (2013-103) photographed by Justin Bosler at Seabrook Bridge, New Orleans, 16 March 2013; and another immature (2016-047) photographed by Donna L. Dittmann on the beach west of Elmer's Island WMA, 20 April. Also at Elmer's Island WMA, and dwarfing the nearby Herring Gull, was this adult Great Black-backed Gull (2011-144; right) photographed by Colin Boeh on 5 March 2011.



2011-144

Showcase 5: shearwaters through boobies

Twenty-three (!) Cory's Shearwaters were encountered off South Pass of the Mississippi River on a 10 September 2016 pelagic out of Venice. Two (2016-025; both photographed, below left) were 17-21 mi. SE; fourteen (2016-026, including two photographed, center) were 22 mi. SE; six (2016-027, including two on the water, right) were 16 mi. SE; and one (2016-055, top right) was 10 mi. SSE (all photos by Oscar Johnson). Images of some show characters that support identification of the nominate subspecies (*C. d. diomedea*). However, subspecific identity of other individuals remains problematic including a possible *C. d. borealis* (far left, and larger bird far right); both forms have been previously specimen-documented off Louisiana.



2016-055



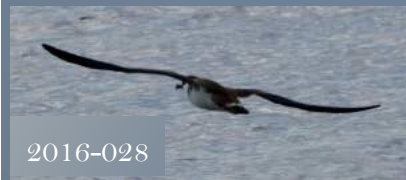
2016-025

2016-026



2016-027

Great Shearwaters also made an appearance on the 10 September 2016 pelagic trip, with an unprecedented five individuals: one (2016-028, left) was in blue water about 17 mi. SE of the mouth of South Pass of the Mississippi River, followed by three (2016-029, images right) a bit farther out at around 22 mi. SE, and the fifth (2016-057) about 16 mi. SE of the mouth of South Pass (all photographed by Oscar Johnson). These represent only the sixth through eighth accepted Louisiana occurrences.

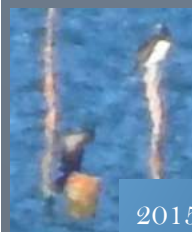


2016-028



2016-057

2016-029



2015-076

All six Brown Booby records accepted in this report were documented by photographs. Wrapping around from left to right, J. V. Remsen obtained this documentary shot of an inland adult (2015-076) at the Morganza Spillway Forebay on 3 December 2015; also "onshore" was the adult (2016-058) photographed by Oscar Johnson near Pilottown, a rousing start to the 10 September 2016 pelagic that also scored the immature (2016-023) photographed by Rob Dobbs at a more typical offshore location at 22 mi. off South Pass. One of two adults (2016-030) photographed by Zeke Watkins were much farther offshore at 125 mi. off the Mississippi River mouth on 25 September 2016, and one (2016-033) photographed from a cruise ship by Ginger Rose for Rich Armstrong was even farther out at 180 mi. south of the Isles Dernieres on 22 October 2016. Back inshore was an adult (2016-038) photographed along the Lake Charles Industrial Canal on 8-9 November 2016.



2016-058



2016-023



2016-030



2016-033



2016-038

Showcase 6: Herons through Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher

Louisiana's first accepted Great White Heron (2016-045) lingered at Grand Isle 18 April-5 May 2016 (here photographed by Donna L. Dittmann on 5 May, near right), and, amazingly, a second bird (2016-041), possibly an immature, was documented at Whiskey Island, Isles Dernieres by Jessica Shultz (far right) on 16 November 2016. See also p. 5 and p. 11.



2013-102

This immature White-tailed Hawk (2013-102; left) was digiscoped by Devin Bosler about 5 mi. W of Holly Beach on 17 October 2013. Joan M. Garvey provided excellent photos (right) of this Brown-crested Flycatcher (2016-039) at Bayou Sauvage NWR on 12 November 2016.



2016-045



2016-041



2016-039



2016-018



submitted with the report; the other involved a family group of three (2016-021, one shown at right, photo by Erik I. Johnson) at Grand Chenier, 4 August 2016.

Each of the two accepted Great Kiskadee records were relatively noteworthy: one was relatively far inland at Sam Houston Jones State Park (2016-018), here photographed (far left) by Billy Jones, 3 November 2016; there was no mention of the photo (near left) of an apparent nest also



2016-021

This relatively uncooperative Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (2016-059), at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 19 April 2016, sat still next to a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak just long enough for Daniel F. Lane to snap a couple of documentary photographs. Other observers present that day were unable to get good if any views of Louisiana's fourth spring occurrence. Barely visible in the photographs is the diagnostic dark sub-malar stripe that connects under the chin and separates it from the superficially similar Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*). Some subspecies of Streaked (*insolens* of E Mexico, *solitarius* of South America) are migratory and might be recorded in the US...



2016-059

Showcase 7: Kingbirds



2012-063

Present for its third winter at the same Braithwaite location, this Tropical Kingbird (2012-063, left) was photographed by Mary Mehaffey near the end of its stay on 7 March 2012. Below the kingbird are two female Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Three silent Tropical/Couch's kingbirds, shown left to right below, were only accepted to species complex. Two from Fall 2010 included one (2010-109) photographed by Devin Bosler near Port Fourchon, 26 September (despite the long bill suggestive of Tropical and the good attempt to photograph the primaries in flight, diagnostic ID characters, especially voice, could not be confirmed), and another (2010-110) photographed by Melvin Weber at Oak Grove, 27 September (again, despite the decent photographs and short bill suggestive of Couch's, diagnostic ID characters, especially voice, could not be confirmed). In the case of LBRC 2016-001, found at New Orleans (photo right by Janine Robin on 2 January 2016, with inset by David Muth on 13 March 2016) and submitted as a Tropical, voice was reportedly consistent with that species, but no first-hand reports were submitted by those who heard the bird, resulting in acceptance only as "complex."



2010-109



2010-110



2016-001



2016-036



2016-043

Two Couch's Kingbirds were confirmed by voice: one (2016-036) was at the Lafayette USGS-NOAA complex on 2 November 2016 (photo far left by Robert C. Dobbs); and the other (2016-043) wintered at Fontainebleau State Park (here, near left, photographed 5 January 2017 by Janine Robin).

Only one Gray Kingbird (2016-017) was reported and accepted in 2016: at Grand Isle on 30 May 2016 (photo at right by Curtis Walker).



2016-017

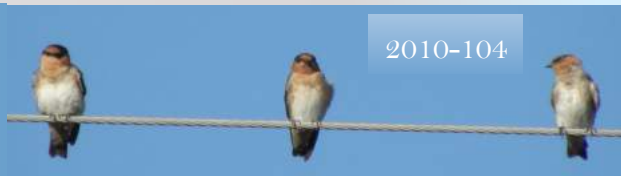
Showcase 8: Vireos through orioles

In contrast to last year's report totals, which were exceptional for both Yellow-green and Black-whiskered vireos (see: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/LBRCNL2016.pdf>), only one record of each species appears in this report. To right, a Yellow-green Vireo (2016-053) at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 15 May 2016, photographed by Paul E. Conover. Paul's two photos show the relatively large bill, drab face pattern, and extensive yellow under parts typical of the species.



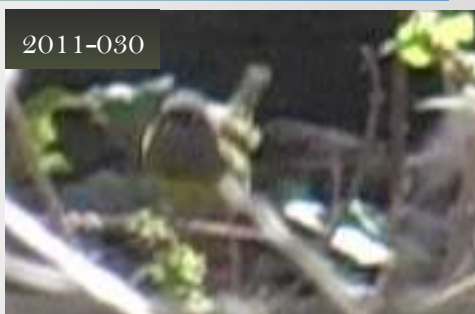
2016-053

At right, three of six Cave Swallows (2010-104) near Gueydan on 11 September 2010 (photo by Michael J. Musumecche). Cave Swallow was removed from the Review List 12 March 2011.



2010-104

This typically elusive MacGillivray's Warbler (2011-030; right) at Triumph, 6 February 2011, ventured into the open just long enough to allow for a quick photo by Phillip A. Wallace.



2011-030

Three Fall 2016 Black-throated Gray Warblers were accepted, including two photographed at Peveto Woods Sanctuary: below far left (2016-022) on 10 September 2016 by Paul E. Conover, and below middle (2016-056) on 21 October 2016 by B. Mac Myers III. On the far right is an immature male (2016-042) at Grand Isle, photographed by Oscar Johnson on 12 November 2016.



2016-022



2016-056



2016-042

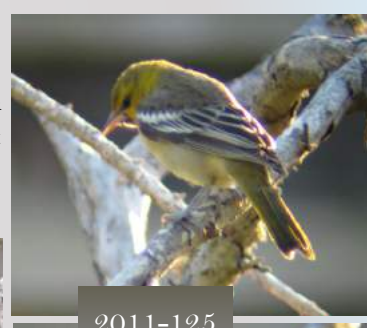


2011-106

This Western Tanager (2011-106; left) at Diamond was photographed by Devin Bosler on 22 October 2011. At right, two photos, also by Devin Bosler, of a female/immature male Bullock's Oriole (2011-125) at Peveto Woods Sanctuary, 30 October 2011; these additional photos helped overturn an initial non-acceptance of the report.



2017-005



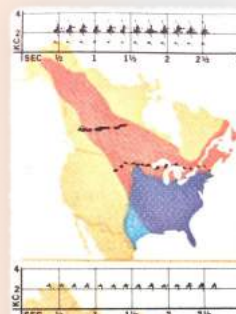
2011-125

This immature male Bullock's Oriole (2017-005) was a one-day-wonder yard bird for Natalie Waters in Thibodaux on 24 March 2017; Natalie was alertly able to document the occurrence with a series of photos, including the two at right.

Why review subspecies?

The LBRC Review List currently includes four subspecies or recognizable forms (see right). **Subspecies** were first added to the Review List in 1995 in the *Seventh Report*; boldfaced at right are three of the five original taxa (two others since elevated to species). Unlike the species portion of the Review List, subspecies listed were not necessarily confirmed to occur in the state. "Great White" Heron has just been accepted in the *Twentieth Report* (2017). Red-shafted Flicker remains without a documented occurrence. Why did those taxa get put on the Review List? Simple answer: it's a holdover to an earlier time. If you dust off an old North American field guide you'd see a species account for Great White Heron: "locally common in salt water along the coast of southern Florida and the Florida Keys." Red-shafted Flicker, Audubon's Warbler, and Oregon and Gray-headed juncos are all there too. All were relegated to subspecies status during the AOU-"lumpfest" of 1973 (32nd Supplement). Older birders will certainly remember these lost species. Also included in the "lumpfest" (and currently on the Review List) was Bullock's Oriole (combined with Baltimore Oriole as Northern Oriole), which has since been restored back to full species status. See AOU history of this topic at: <http://darwiniana.org/zoo/AOUintro.htm>

What subspecies or forms are on the LBRC Review List?



Great White Heron This subspecies was part of the first set of subspecies added to the Review List in 1995. No records predated the species lump, but three potential records not long after during the eighties prompted its addition. The map at left (from [sibleyguides.com](http://www.sibleyguides.com): <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2007/11/great-white-heron-not-just-a-color-morph/>) shows the small US distribution in purple (south Florida and keys), overall distribution in yellow, and extralimital occurrences (at the time of David Sibley's blog, Nov 5, 2007) in green. Rumors of elevation back to full species have swirled since Heather McGuire's genetic work (while at LSU-MNS) on the taxonomic status of the Great White. There are now two accepted records of the Great White subspecies: *Ardea herodias occidentalis*. By the way, the focus of Sibley's blog (mentioned above) was that Great White is not just a white morph of Great Blue Heron.

Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus cafer*-group of subspecies). Formerly there were three species of North American flickers: maps (left) from *A Guide to the Field Identification Birds of North America* (1966) shows their distributions (top to bottom: Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, Gilded). The lump of the western subspecies (reddish underwings and feather shafts) was discussed by Lowery (1974), who said that Red-shafted occurred in Louisiana on "infrequent occasions in the winter;" a 1953 Shreveport record was possibly the basis for his inclusion of the species on the Louisiana list. *Despite there being no hard evidence of its occurrence in Louisiana, the species/subspecies* remained on the State and Review lists. In 2007, the LBRC finally reviewed the 1953 report. This was a sight record with limited details written long after the date of the observation, and it was found unacceptable (see *Tenth Report*, 2010). The only other record submitted and reviewed is one from Baton Rouge in 1991 (also found unacceptable). Red-shafted is apparently much less prone to vagrancy to the east than is Yellow-shafted to the west, and putative red-shafted individuals in the East may be the result of diet rather than wanderlust from the West or hybridization: J. Hudon, R. J. Driver, N. H. Rice, et al. 2017. *Diet explains red flight feathers in eastern flickers. The Auk: Ornithological Advances* 134:22-33.

The LBRC also requests documentation for occurrences of the following recognizable subspecies or forms: "Great White" Heron, Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler, and non-"Slate-colored" forms of Dark-eyed Junco (e.g., "Gray-headed", "Oregon", and "Pink-sided" types have occurred in Louisiana), as well as "Red-shafted" Flicker, which is not accepted.

Definition of SUBSPECIES

- : a subdivision of a species: such as
- a : a category in biological classification that ranks immediately below a species and designates a population of a particular geographic region genetically distinguishable from other such populations of the same species and capable of interbreeding successfully with them where its range overlaps theirs
- b : a named subdivision (such as a race or variety) of a taxonomic species
- c : SUBGROUP 1 + a political subspecies

—subspecific ◀ \səb-spi-'si-fik\ adjective

Although southwestern Gilded Flicker regained species status in 1995 following results of genetic studies, re-splitting of the red and yellow shafted groups seems unlikely. Nevertheless, it doesn't hurt to be on the lookout for the easy-to-identify western form, but observers need to be prepared to document the other plumage characters (in addition to reddish coloration). It would represent a first state occurrence! For the moment, this form remains on the Review List.

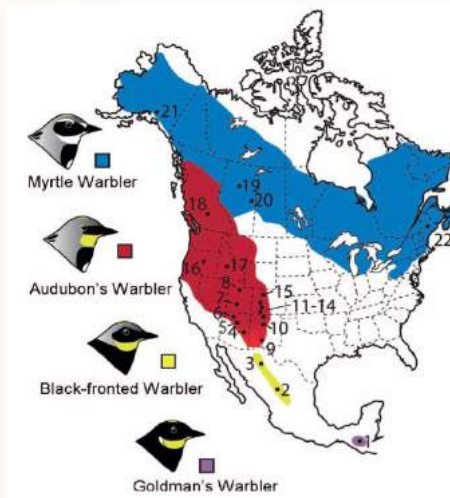


Figure 1: Phenotypic variation and geographic distribution of subspecies within the *Setophaga coronata* species complex. Dots represent sampling localities from Toews et al. (2016).

Audubon's Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*). This western subspecies didn't join the Review List until the *Ninth Report* (2003). It has a history of occurrence in the state with Lowery (1974) discussing the lump and then refusing to adopt the AOU's moniker 'Yellow-rumped' for the Myrtle-Audubon's combo. Lowery stated that Audubon's had been seen at "at least a dozen places, on dates ranging from October 25-May 7." By 1974, however, there were only three specimens. Few early records were adequately documented, thus creating a situation not unlike the flicker. This western species was presumed to be a 'regular' vagrant and individuals were perhaps not scrutinized particularly carefully. Audubon's was added to the Review List in 2005. Since then, eleven records have been submitted and accepted. With fewer than four report/year, the western subspecies fits the classic Review List criteria. Hybrid Audubon's X Myrtle have also been photographed in the state. Head's up: one of the 2017 AOU Checklist proposals is to split Yellow-rumped Warbler (image left from proposal): <http://checklist.aou.org/assets/proposals/PDF/2017-A.pdf> and perhaps resurrect Audubon's Warbler to its former status as a full species.



The **Dark-eyed Junco** is a similar case: map (left) and plate (below) from *Birds of North America* (1966) shows range map of juncos (when full species) that have occurred in Louisiana. Considered a vagrant, **Gray-headed Junco** was documented by a 1957 specimen from Caddo Parish and was an obvious choice when adding subspecies to the Review List. There were two specimens of Oregon Junco: *montanus* and *mearnsi* (Pink-sided), both also from Caddo Parish. The 1957 AOU Checklist reported **Oregon** subspecies *montanus* casual to southern Louisiana, but Lowery (1974) stated that there were many Louisiana reports of "Oregon" Junco every winter, especially from the NW. Because of Lowery's account, Louisiana observers likely assumed that Oregon Juncos were semi-regular in occurrence. But as time passed it became clear that a substantial number of these 'Oregons' were probably brownish Slate-colored Juncos, most likely the "Cassiar Junco," *J. h. cismontanus*. Breeding from central Yukon to west-central Alberta in the northern Rocky Mountains, Cassiar winters to northern Baja and central Texas, thus regularly wintering much closer to

Louisiana than the Oregon subspecies. Although adult males of each population are generally straightforward, female and immature juncos present an identification challenge. Further complicating matters, there are intermediates from contact zones (and some have proposed that all *cismontanus* are actually hybrids). Working on a hypothesis that most Louisiana Oregon-types reported were more likely *cismontanus* Slate-colored, and that Oregons were rare enough to meet Review List criteria, the balance of the junco group (=any *non-Slate-colored*) were added to the Review List in the *Ninth Report* (2003). Documentation is requested for all Oregon Juncos: "black-headed browns," e.g., *oreganus*, *schufeldti*, *montanus*, and *thurberi*; and the distinctive Pink-sided (*mearnsi*). Few reports have since been submitted to confirm Lowery's conclusion that Oregon subspecies are regular in northern Louisiana.



There is one additional specimen of Gray-headed from Acadia Parish in July (!) 1990. There is *only one other LBRC-accepted record of any non-Slate-colored-type* junco, a Gray-headed photographed in Caddo Parish in 2000. The specimen records have not yet been formally reviewed.

Subspecies elevated on the LBRC Review List.

Returning to the old field guide (image below), two subspecies first added to the LBRC Review List (in 1995) were "Cassin's" and "Plumbeous" vireos. At the time lumped as Solitary Vireo, a species split was anticipated.

A Guide to the Field Identification Birds of North America (1966) had Rocky Mt. race Plumbeous (and Cassin's) vireos lumped with Solitary Vireo



This is also a reason to add recognizable forms to the Review List. The vireos were split two years later in 1997. Another split not in that old field guide is Couch's Kingbird, later recognized as distinct from Tropical Kingbird. Louisiana's first records of each were specimens (Couch's in 1965;

Tropical in 1984) and predated their split. The specimens had been identified to subspecies that were elevated to species status after the split. Note that the LBRC will also accept kingbirds 'to complex' when not assignable at species level. Unidentifiable Cordilleran and Pacific-slope flycatchers can also be accepted as "Western Flycatcher." Holdovers to the past can go both ways.

What's a **species**? Our field guides seem to change with each revision: taxonomic order, species versus subspecies/populations, even English names. The foundation for ornithological taxonomy and systematics now has a large dose of the Phylogenetic Species Concept (PSC). If you look at the current AOU proposals (<http://checklist.aou.org/assets/proposals/PDF/2017-A.pdf>) emphasis is placed on results of genetic relationship projects (trees, principal component plots, structure models) often with corroboration of vocal characters, and traditional morphology sometimes mentioned. The PSC approach can be applied when the Biological Species Concept needs an assist when (much of the time it is) not clear-cut: populations are disjunct or clinal. Many North American species do have recognizable populations (or subspecies). For birders, it pays to be attentive to the fine details: morphological and behavioral. Not only will that make you a better birder but perhaps you will not be as surprised when a genetics-based study proposes to split a species like Willet (Eastern and Western) or a lump of species pairs of large gulls.

Back to the question: why review subspecies? Besides being a holdover to a time before species were lumped, there are two reasons. One is- regardless of current species status, recognizable taxa may occur as rarities in Louisiana (e.g., former Solitary Vireo example above). So, recognizing their distributional status yields useful information that falls within the goals of the LBRC. This is especially true if a species/subspecies has a history here. And secondly- species status may change, so gathering information in advance puts one ahead of the game. But we emphasize that, except for the few species-holdovers discussed, the LBRC has no organized effort to investigate rarities at subspecific rank. The *AOU Checklist* abandoned detailing subspecies distribution with the 1983 Checklist edition. Perhaps when a future edition includes subspecies distributions, there will be increased interest in casually occurring subspecies taxa. What should be on our radar? Any migratory species with distinct eastern and western populations is a good start. Unfortunately, it's not always easy to identify regional populations. Not all of these potential splits will come to fruition, but some probably will, and there may be a potential for vagrancy to Louisiana. Meanwhile, we can be on the lookout for the first occurrences of "new" species resulting from recent splits, e.g., Pacific Wren or Mexican Whip-poor-will.

One AOU proposal in the works that would impact the Review List is the lumping of Thayer's and Iceland gulls. Other current proposals to watch: split northern and southern Brown Creepers; and western and eastern Bell's Vireos and Nashville Warblers. Can "Calaveras Warbler" turn up in Louisiana? So, next time you are flipping through the pages of your field guide and notice northern, southern, or western populations that have different plumages or vocalizations - take a closer look, it could be the next split. And even if not, it could represent an extralimital form worthy of documentation.

—Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff

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