

Annual Report 2008

November 29, 2008

Louisiana's
and North
America's
first record of
Crowned
Slaty -
Flycatcher.
Photographs
by Paul E.
Conover

see page 8



Cameron Parish: near Johnsons Bayou
3 June 2008

First online newsletter of the LBRC

The LBRC presents its first annual newsletter. The online newsletter will be published once per year following the Annual Meeting and will provide information about Committee activities. The newsletter is a work in progress, and in the future it may include more expanded features on identification relevant to Committee reviews. It is not intended to replace official Reports of the Committee traditionally published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*, but to allow more timely dissemination of LBRC business such as updates to the Review List or to announce additions to the State List, which have sometimes appeared as entries on the LOS check-list in advance of published changes.

Annual Meeting 8 November 2008

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

The LBRC's Annual Meeting is typically held on the first Saturday following Labor Day. This year, however, the meeting was delayed due to Hurricane Gustav, which hit Louisiana

on Labor Day, 1 September 2008, only five days before the scheduled meeting. As the meeting date approached, and with large portions of the greater Baton Rouge area still without electrical power, the meeting was postponed. The next possible date that was compatible for all members was Saturday, 8 November.

The following Voting Members were in attendance: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair), Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), James L. Ingold, Dave Patton, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Phillip A. Wallace. The following Alternate Members were also present: Nancy L. Newfield (First Alternate) and B. Mac Myers III (Second Alternate).

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*)

This singing bird (2008-22) was found by Terry Davis in Bossier Parish along Hwy. 3, at 0.5 mi. N of I-220 and 0.3 mi. west of Benton Road. It was present from 10-13 May 2008. This is the first record for Louisiana.



The 2008 Annual Meeting surpassed any previous LBRC Annual Meeting in terms of the total number of records reviewed, records accepted, and new species added to the State List (not counting older specimens reviewed at the meeting). Four species were new for Louisiana - including this Cassin's Sparrow in Bossier Parish on 10 May 2008. Counting other recently accepted records (since the 2007 Annual Meeting to be included in the upcoming Tenth Report of the LBRC) of American Flamingo (2007-63), Gray Flycatcher (2008-02), and Smooth-billed Ani (1893-01; based on the rediscovery of presumed-lost specimen), a remarkable seven species were added in a period of one year, increasing the state list total to 467.

(left) photograph by Charles E. Lyon

(below) digiscoped photograph by Justin Bosler



Annual Meeting 2008 - cont.

Annual Meetings typically include elections, record reviews, and other business as requested by Members, and are usually all-day events; this meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM and adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Election of LBRC Members

Elections were held and the following Members were re-nominated and re-elected to new 3-year terms: Steven W. Cardiff and Curtis C. Sorrells. The officers, who hold 1-year terms, were also re-nominated and re-elected: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair) and Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary).

Record Review

Voting Members reviewed 88 first circulation records. Records included on the agenda were

chosen at the discretion of the Secretary, and mainly involved well-documented, relatively non-controversial occurrences supported by photographic or specimen evidence most easily reviewed in a meeting format and with a high probability of acceptance (as outlined by the LBRC Bylaws; see <http://losbird.org> for online copy). The Committee is also gradually reviewing older specimens of Review List species that were never individually reviewed by the LBRC (or included in its record roster), and a number of these appear in the current batch of records.

For records reviewed at a meeting, Member votes are anonymous and without comment, and acceptance of each record must be unanimous. For records receiving non-unanimous votes, the

(cont. from page 2) voting outcome is ignored and the record will begin a traditional first circulation via snail mail or email.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, 87 of 88 records were accepted, among which were four new species for Louisiana: Western Gull, Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher, Chihuahuan Raven, and Cassin's Sparrow. Previously "accepted," but never officially reviewed, were first state records based on older specimen evidence: Masked Duck, Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels, Purple Sandpiper, and Red and Red-necked phalaropes.

The one record not unanimously accepted was a resubmission of a previously unaccepted record:

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*)

One immature male (1974-01) on 7 November 1974, *St. Tammany*: 1 mi. W of English Lookout near mouth of Pearl River; James E. Lee (LSUMZ 80123).

This specimen (photograph on p. 12) was previously reviewed and not accepted based on origin (1 accept; 6 not acceptable based on questionable origin) and the outcome was published in 1982 in *L.O.S. News* No. 98 by David Bruce Crider: First Report of the Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. In addition to the specimen, the record includes a long form prepared by Crider, including a copy of Letters to the Editor, July-August 1975 *Ducks Unlimited* 39(4):6, which includes a letter about the duck from George H. Lowery, Jr., who wrote that although the duck

Louisiana's first record of Chihuahuan Raven with hard evidence is this individual found and documented by Daniel F. Lane at Holly Beach.

Dan was able to obtain digiscoped images of the bird as it foraged along the highway shoulder. In addition to the digital photographs, he also obtained a couple of short video clips, which included critical audio of the raven calling as well as Dan's dictated field notes of the observation.

Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)

One (2008-12) on 12 April 2008, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; Daniel F. Lane (ph). This represents the first hard evidence record for the state; a sight record previously submitted from Spring 2003 has not yet been reviewed.





Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*)

One female (1996-89) in second basic plumage on 27 October 1996, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach; B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 162293) and Robert D. Purrington; Donna L. Dittmann (*; B-29052). This represents a first state record and the best-documented record for the southeastern U.S.



Although this second basic plumaged gull is phenotypically consistent with a Western Gull, to corroborate that identification DNA (extracted from the tissue sample taken upon collection), was analyzed “blind” by two different researchers. Both recovered a genetic identification consistent with this species.

Photographs by Donna L. Dittmann

(cont. from p. 3) was fat, did not show signs of captivity, and that he did not personally know of aviaries in the southern US that kept Baikal Teal, he still could not exclude the possibility that the duck may have escaped from captivity.

The LBRC, in consideration of several factors, including the date of the record, the species’ updated pattern of vagrancy in western North America, and that other committees have accepted similar records (e.g., California Bird Records Committee accepts two specimen records from the same winter), believed that reconsideration of this potential first state record was warranted. Members thought that it would be interesting to obtain details (especially dates of occurrence) for other non-West Coast records that were considered unacceptable based on origin by various other records committees (e.g., Ontario, Colorado, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Ohio).

The record received a mixed vote of accept (3) and accept-origin hypothetical (4). Although this outcome is non-binding and the record will now begin a fresh set of traditional circulations, it was a good preliminary opportunity to re-examine the specimen and background evidence, which should help expedite the eventual decision.

A complete list of the records accepted at this meeting begins on page 7.

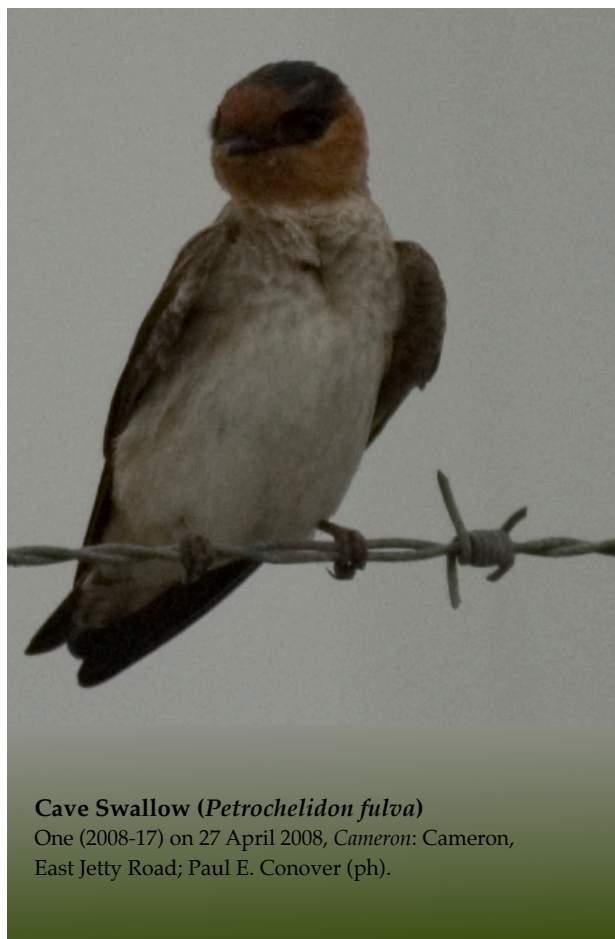
Additional Business

Proposed changes to the Review List:

Remove Bell’s Vireo & Cave Swallow?

A proposal was made to consider removal of Bell’s Vireo and Cave Swallow from the Review List. The Secretary provided information showing that, based on records accepted by the

A surge in recent records prompts the LBRC to evaluate status of these two species on the LBRC Review List



Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

One (2008-17) on 27 April 2008, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty Road; Paul E. Conover (ph).

As a result of numerous recent records during 2007 and 2008, the LBRC discussed whether to remove Bell's Vireo and Cave Swallow from the Review List

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

One (2007-49) from 12-15 September 2007, *St. Martin*: Breaux Bridge; Gary Broussard (ph).



(cont. from p. 4) Committee, neither species averaged more than four records/year over a ten-year period (which would warrant their removal). Although this Review List criterion is not strictly enforced, considering that both species potentially represent identification problems and that breeding is not well-established and/or is difficult to monitor, the Committee voted unanimously to retain both species on the Review List.

Change of date of annual meeting

Beginning Fall 1997, the LBRC opted to hold a single Annual Meeting and to conduct the meeting at the LSU Museum of Natural Science, the idea being that this format would facilitate fast-tracking of hard-evidence records and give Members an opportunity to compare specimen material in the LSUMNS bird collection. This format required mandatory attendance by all Members, and a "set date" meant to eliminate scheduling conflicts. Through 2008, the agreed upon set date was "the first Saturday in

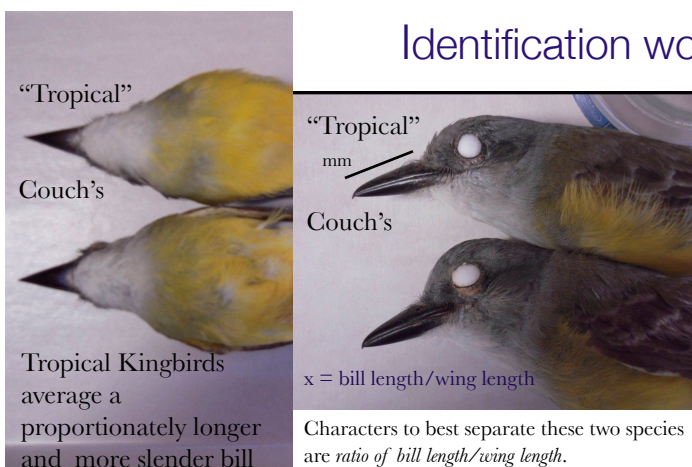
September after Labor Day weekend," but this date had become increasingly unpopular due to disruptions caused by recent hurricanes and swelling crowds at LSU home football games. The two-month postponement caused by Hurricane Gustav was the final straw that prompted the Committee to explore alternative "set dates" at a "more stable" time of the year. Taking into consideration holidays, sporting events, and periods of peak birding activity, the LBRC unanimously decided to change the date of the Annual Meeting to "the first Saturday after 9 March." Projecting into the future, this will mean that the meeting will fall somewhere during the period 10-16 March, and the next meeting of the LBRC will be held on 14 March 2009.

Ivory-billed Woodpecker records

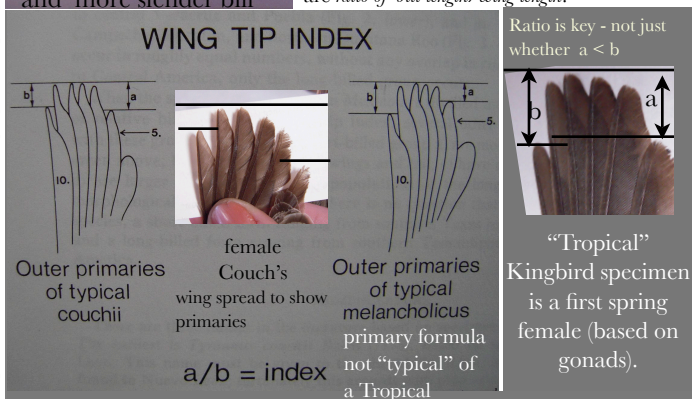
The LBRC will review the 1971 Fielding Lewis record documented by two photographs. Information surrounding these photographs was considered highly confidential for 30 years, but

continued bottom next page

Identification workshops during specimen review



Characters to best separate these two species are ratio of bill length/wing length.



Because differences of measurements alone are subtle, it is more informative to compare ratios such as those obtained from wing tip index shown above.

Female kingbirds (wings of specimens shown above) typically lack notched primaries of adult males (and as illustrated in diagram above) from Traylor (1979).

Absolute measurements and small size of specimen suggested Tropical, but index values ($a/b=0.97$; $\text{bill/wing}=16.7\%$) plotted on Traylor's graphs were not clear cut enough to confirm species identification; further analysis will be necessary to confirm identification beyond a Couch's/Tropical kingbird.

specimen review - cont. p. 13

Tropical vs. Couch's kingbirds

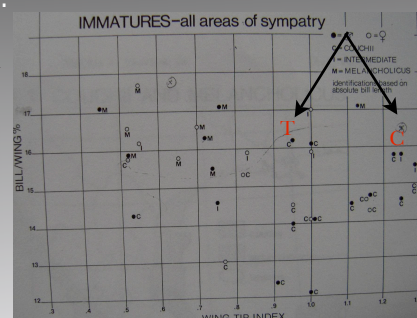


Examination of: female **"Tropical/Couch's" kingbird** (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*) (2008-10) on 25 April 2008, Cameron: 1.5 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River (shown in images compared to a female Couch's Kingbird collected in south Texas).

Principal reference for separation of Tropical and Couch's kingbirds in the hand is by Melvin A. Traylor, Jr.: (1979) Two Sibling species of *Tyrannus* (Tyrannidae); Auk 96(2):221-233 (includes Wing Tip Index figure left and chart below).

2008-10 indicated on Traylor's graph by **T**; Couch's specimen by **C**

A clear cut Tropical would fall on the left side of this chart.



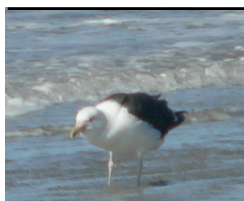
Measurements of immature birds do not segregate as cleanly as do those of adults, and measurements of this specimen are not clear cut - possibly best representing a "small" Couch's (supported by tail fork and primary projection), or hybrid.

(cont. from page 5) Lewis's sightings have now been published in two recent books, *The Grail Bird* (Tim Gallagher, 2005) and *Stalking the Ghost Bird* (Michael K. Steinberg, 2008), as well as in a chapter about Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in his own book *Tales of a Louisiana Duck Hunter* published in 1988, and the photographs have been deposited at VIREO. Ivory-billed Woodpecker is on the LBRC Review List.

Introduced birds

A proposal was introduced to move all introduced birds to a separate list at the end of the main list ("Established Exotics") but upon further discussion a majority of Members agreed that the "I" used to designate introduced species on the checklist was sufficient. The discussion

moved on to Monk Parakeet status following a recent thread on the listserv LABIRD. Unfortunately, information currently on file with the LBRC is relatively meager, and more needs to be accumulated to support the species' current population status. All Members agreed that additional information should be solicited, received, and evaluated before taking a vote to add the species to the state list. If this is forthcoming, then we can consider it at the next meeting in March 2009.



Adult **Great Black-backed Gull** (2008-23) photographed by B. Mac Myers III on Timbalier Island on 7 February 2008.

First circulation records accepted at the Annual Meeting 2008

Compiled by Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary (format follows that of LBRC reports published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*)

Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*)

One female (1933-02) on 23 December 1933, *Cameron*: Sweet Lake, 25 mi. SE Lake Charles; R. T. Newton (LSUMZ 6337). Lowery (1974) gives the record as "a female shot by a hunter a few miles south Lake Charles." This represents the first state record (see p. 12).

One female (1971-05) on 7 January 1971, *Cameron*: 2 mi. N Holly Beach on Mobile Lease; J. Jay Lafleur (LSUMZ 69201) and P. Ambrose Daigre (*). Lowery (1974) reports that this represents the fourth record for the state.

One female (1973-13) on 6 January 1973, *Vermilion*: 4 mi. SW Esther; J. Bernard (LSUMZ 127446, mount in collection) and Mark J. Villien. Lowery (1974) reports that this represents the fifth record for the state.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

One male (1941-01) on 26 July 1941, *Gulf of Mexico*: 2 mi. off Southwest Pass; Edouard Morgan (LSUMZ 5647). This specimen represents the first state record (see p. 12).

One (1960-03) on 28 June 1960, *Gulf of Mexico*: 35 mi. SE South Pass of the Mississippi River; Barbara Bodman (LSUMZ 27861, skeleton). This represents the third state record.

One female (1990-27) on 28 May 1990, *Gulf of Mexico*: ca 15 mi. S South Pass Mississippi River; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 152594) and Donna L. Dittmann (*).

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

One (1956-07) on 5 December 1956, *Gulf of Mexico*: 41 statute mi. SE South Pass of the Mississippi River, 28° 30'N, 88° 42'W; MV Oregon personnel (LSUMZ 22062; photo on p. 12). Lowery (1974) credits Harvey R. Bullis as collector when he picked up the bird on the deck in a stunned condition at 2 AM. This represents the first state record.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

One immature (2008-48) on 1 June 2008, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; Josh Sylvest and J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 11).

Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*)

One second year male (2008-07) on 26 April 2008 at 12:55 PM, *Cameron*: 3 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River; Steven W. Cardiff (DLD 9056) and Donna L. Dittmann (*). The same individual was observed about one hour earlier at approximately 11:55 AM flying east along Holly Beach by Phillip A. Wallace (ph) and Curtis C. Sorrells. The bird had flagging on the right leg (light green tubing), black tape on the left, but no metal bands or other identification; origin of these markers has not yet been determined.

White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)

One immature (2007-58) on 27 October - 12 November 2007, *Cameron*: Willow Island, Paul E. Conover (ph, see p. 11), Robert D. Purrington, Justin Bosler (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph only), James Beck (ph), and Gordon Bosler (ph only).

One immature (2007-66) on 12 November 2007, *Cameron*: Willow Island; James Beck (ph); both this and the above bird were observed at the same time.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

One immature (2008-16) on 26-27 April 2008, *Cameron*: Sweet Lake, vicinity of Chesson's Grocery, just north of Cameron Prairie NWR; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, see p. 11) and Steven W. Cardiff, B. Mac Myers III (ph only), Paul E. Conover (ph only), and Phillip A. Wallace (ph only).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One sex unknown (2007-60) on 23 September 2007, *Cameron*: ca 3 mi. W Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (DLD 9123, ph) and B. Mac Myers III, and Donna L. Dittmann (*, skeleton & spread wing, (see p. 12).

As many as two singing/calling (2008-36) on 27 April 2008, *Cameron*: west side Cameron ferry; Phillip Wallace (audio), B. Mac Myers III, and Devin Bosler; Curtis C. Sorrells was also involved in the discovery. Last date apparently 10 May.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritimus*)

One female (1973-13) molting from basic to alternate plumage on 4 April 1974, *Cameron*: near east end of the East Jetty of Calcasieu ship channel; Robert B. Hamilton and Robert E. Noble (LSUMZ 75533) and George H. Lowery, Jr. (*) - photo on p. 12. This represents the first state record (Lowery 1974).

Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

One adult female (1966-01) in alternate plumage on 8 May 1966, *Cameron*: 10 mi. W Johnsons Bayou; George H. Lowery Jr. (LSUMZ 51246). This represents the first state record (Lowery 1974) - photo on p. 12.

Two (2007-45) on 26 September 2007, *Iberville*: North Farm [east edge Atchafalaya Basin, north of Ramah]; Michael A. Seymour (ph, see p. 11).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

One male (1950-01) molting from juvenal to first basic plumage on 12 October 1950, *East Baton Rouge*: [Baton Rouge,] LSU Campus; Robert J. Newman (LSUMZ 14875). This represents the first state record (Lowery 1977); photo on p. 12.

One female (1961-03) molting from juvenal to first basic plumage on 16 September 1961, *Cameron*: 1 mi. W Holly Beach; Laurence C. Binford (LSUMZ 25135). This represents the second state record and Lowery (1974) also credits Delwyn G. Berrett with its discovery following Hurricane Carla (Lowery 1974).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

One male (1985-70) in worn first basic plumage on 31 March 1973, *Cameron*: 3 mi. N Holly Beach on "Magnolia Road"; Dan A. Tallman (LSUMZ 73127, skin plus trunk skeleton) and Robert J. Newman. This represents the first state record and only the third record for a Gulf Coast state at the time (Lowery 1974).

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*)

One female (1996-89) in second basic plumage on 27 October 1996, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach; B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 162293) and Robert D. Purrington; Donna L. Dittmann (*, B-29052). The DNA of this individual was

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) - 1996-89 cont. analyzed by Pierre-Andre Crochet and Sarah Sonsthagen and is consistent with this species. Morphology and plumage are also consistent with subadult Western Gull. This represents a first state record and the only well-documented record in the southeastern region.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

One adult male (2007-82) on 3 November 2007, *Cameron*: 5 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River; Steven W. Cardiff (DLD 9056) and Donna L. Dittmann (ph, *).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One female (1985-70) molting from juvenal to first basic plumage on 30 September 1985, *Cameron*: 5 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 127610) and Donna L. Dittmann (*). This was the first specimen for the state.

One adult (2008-23) on 7 February 2008, *Terrebonne*: Timbalier Island; B. Mac Myers III (ph on p. 6).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)

One female (1961-01) on 16 September 1961, *Cameron*: 2 mi. W Holly Beach; K. A. Arnold (LSUMZ 25139) and E. Armstrong (*). This bird was found dead following Hurricane Carla. Third state record.

Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*)

One (2007-38) on 19 October 2007, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach, Robb C. Dobbs (ph, see p. 11).

One (2007-87) on 4 November 2007, *Gulf of Mexico*: oil platform 78 mi. SE mouth of South Pass of the Mississippi River; Buddy Horton (ph only, p. 10) and original email notification from Ned Brinkley.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

One (2007-53) on 19 October 2007, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Robb C. Dobbs (ph).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

One male (2007-77) on 22 November 2007, *Cameron*: Hwy. 27 at First Bayou, approx. 1 1/2 mi. N Holly Beach; Devin Bosler (ph, see p. 9).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

One male (2007-88) late December 2007 to 28 January 2008, *St. Charles*: Luling; Kay Davey (ph only) and Nancy L. Newfield.

One immature male (2008-20) on 11 February 2008, *Lafayette*: Lafayette (residence of Judy Grand); Dave Patton (ph, p. 11). Homeowner reported that bird was present since the second week of January 2008.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

One immature male (2000-97) on 1 February 2000, *Orleans*: New Orleans, 816 Upperline Street; Charlotte Seidenberg (ph only) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded, band no. T79978, data and right rectrix 5 to LSUMNS).

One adult female (2007-81) from 14 December 2007-6 January 2008, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 1967 Tulip Street; Jeffrey W. Harris (ph, see p. 10) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded 22 Dec, band no. N98945, and left R5 to LSUMNS, plus in-hand photos by Steve Locke).

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)

One immature male (2003-16) on 2 December 2003, *Lafourche*: Thibodaux, 206 Pamela Place; Beth Maniscalco and Nancy L. Newfield (banded 2 Dec; band no. N47415, rectrices right 1, left 2 and 5 to LSUMNS).

One immature male (2003-86) on 2 December 2003-19 January 2004, *Lafourche*: Thibodaux 206 Pamela Place; Beth Maniscalco and Nancy L. Newfield (banded 2 Dec and recaptured 19 Jan; band no. N47418, rectrices right 1, 2, and 5 to LSUMNS).

One immature male (2007-99) on 22 December 2007, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 522 South Lakeview Drive (residence of Scott Knaus); Nancy L. Newfield (banded; band no. E36024, rectrices 1, left 2, and 5 to LSUMNS) and Steve Locke (ph only). The homeowner reported to Tom Sylvest that the bird was first observed on 20 December.

One immature male (2007-98) on 21 January 2008, *Lafourche*: Thibodaux, 2203 Parish Road (residence of Janelle Bergeron); Nancy L. Newfield (banded; band no. E36029, rectrices right 1, 2, and 5 to LSUMNS). Reported first found on 18 November 2007 by homeowner to Tom Sylvest.

One adult female (2008-47) on 11 February 2008, *Ascension*: Donaldsonville, 3111 Highway 1 south (residence of Virginia Sagona); Nancy L. Newfield (banded; band no. E36125, rectrices right 1, 2, and 5 to LSUMNS).

One adult female (2008-48) on 11 February 2008, *Ascension*: Donaldsonville, 3111 Highway 1 south (residence of Virginia Sagona); Nancy L. Newfield (banded; band no. E36123, rectrices right 1, 2, and 5 to LSUMNS).

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

At least two (2008-09) on 12 May 2008, *Ascension*: 2 mi. N Hwy. 61 and I-10 freeway; Steven W. Cardiff (whiting male; SWC 8659) and Donna L. Dittmann (photo of singing individual on p. 11).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

One (2007-46) from 9-14 October 2007, *Iberville*: north of Ramah; Michael A. Seymour and Dave Patton (ph), Justin Bosler (ph), and Jeff Harris.

One (2007-52) on 11 October 2007, *Cameron*: East Jetty Woods; Justin Bosler (ph, p. 11).

One (2007-47) on 13 October 2007, *Calcasieu*: Fruge Road, just N Cameron parish line; Dave Patton (ph), B. Mac Myers III (ph).

One (2007-56) on 20 October 2007-5 April 2008, *Vermilion*: Shams Road, NW of Kaplan; Justin Bosler (ph), Kevin Morgan, Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff (DLD, ph on 19 Dec), B. Mac Myers III (ph on 4 Jan), Paul E. Conover (ph on 4 Jan; see bottom left), Jacob Saucier (card for 5 Apr).

One (2008-21) on 18-20 February 2008, *Plaquemines*: Alliance, 16096 Hwy. 23 S, Becnel Citrus Farm; Justin Bosler (ph). This bird was originally found by Dave Patton.

Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*)

One male (2008-08) on 3 June 2008, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; Paul E. Conover (ph on cover, DLD 9086) and B. Mac Myers III. This represents a first record for Louisiana and the United States.

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

One female (2008-10) on 25 April 2008, *Cameron*: 1.5 mi. W old mouth Mermentau River (Rutherford



Say's Phoebe (2007-56) photographed by Paul E. Conover on Sham's Road in Vermilion Parish on 4 January 2008.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicuscouchii*) - 2008-10 cont. Beach; B. Mac Myers III (DLD 9087, photo on p. 6) and Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

Upon initial examination, this specimen does not fall clearly within one species. See p. 6 for more information on identification.

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

One (2007-79) on 27 November-3 December 2007, *Bossier*: Bossier City; Jeff Trahan (ph) and Terry Davis (ph). Description of call notes was definitive for Couch's.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

One (2008-30) on 19 April 2008, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, vicinity of Bobby Santiny's residence, Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, and (presumably the same bird seen later in the afternoon in vicinity of TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract behind Sureway Market) Devin Bosler (ph, see p. 11).

One (2008-46) on 25 May 2005, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Trinity Island, along California Canal; Justin Bosler (ph).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*)

One female or immature (2008-06) from 17-27 February 2008, *Plaquemines*: vicinity of Alliance, 16096 Hwy. 23 S, Becnel Citrus Farm, Phillip A. Wallace (ph), David P. Muth (ph), Bill Bergen (ph only, p. 10), Donna L. Dittmann (ph), Justin Bosler (ph), Mike Musumeche (ph). This represents the second state record. The owners of citrus farm graciously allowed birders to enter the front of their property where the bird often was best seen before it went to roost in the orchard. In the absence of definitive primary tip notching, paleness of collar and back, combined with timing of occurrence (winter) lend support for this individual belonging to the northern subspecies *monachus*.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

One (2007-49) from 12-15 September 2007, *St. Martin*: Breaux Bridge; Gary Broussard (ph, see p. 3).

One (2007-54) on 16 September 2007, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; Devin Bosler (ph). This may be same bird as reported on 15 September 2007 by Robb Dobbs.

One (2007-50) on 13 October 2007, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; B. Mac Myers III (ph) and Paul E. Conover (ph). This may be same bird as reported on 15-16 September 2007 at same locality.

One (2007-72) on 18 November 2007, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR; Phillip A. Wallace (ph). Presumably same bird found at the same site on 8 March 2008 (Wallace, Muth card).

One (2008-13) on 19 April 2008, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Govan Tract on Landry Lane, Devin Bosler (ph).

One immature (2008-45) on 5-6 September 2008, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 501 Adrienne Street; Paul E. Conover (banded on 6 Sept., 2250-47350) and Dave Patton (ph only).

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)

One (2008-19) on 3 May 2008, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, 29.768° N, 93.651° W; Frank Moore and Emily Cohen, Lainie LaHaye (ph only); banded by Dana Ripper and Christine Roy.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

One (2008-40) on 19-20 April 2008, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilleta tract; Steven W. Cardiff and Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Justin Bosler (ph).



Male **Lesser Nighthawk** (2007-77) photographed by Devin Bosler about 1 1/2 mi. north of Holly Beach on 22 November 2007.

One (2008-15) on 27 April 2008, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, see p. 11), Paul E. Conover (ph). Originally discovered by Gary Broussard.

Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*)

One (2008-12) on 12 April 2008, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; Daniel F. Lane (ph, see p. 3). This represents the first hard evidence record for the state; a sight record previously submitted from Spring 2003 has not yet been reviewed.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

Up to six (2007-51) from 29 September-6 October 2007, *Jefferson Davis*: Thornwell, Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, and Justin Bosler.

A minimum of eight (2007-91) on 26 October 2007, *Jefferson Davis*: south of Thornwell; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, *) and Steven W. Cardiff (DLD 9025-9030; see p. 13).

One on 26 October 2007, and 27 individuals on 29 October 2007 (2007-71), *Vermilion*: about 1 mi. S Mouton Cove, Michael J. Musumeche (ph, see p. 11).

Up to 49 (2007-61) on 27 October 2007, *Cameron*: vicinity of Willow Island and west to the Cameron jetty; Paul E. Conover (ph), and Donna L. Dittmann.

Two (2007-62) on 29 October 2007, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach Road; James Beck (ph).

One (2008-17) on 27 April 2008, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty Road; Paul E. Conover (ph, see p. 3).

One (2008-18) on 10 May 2008, *Vermilion*: approximately 5 mi. SSE of Kaplan, intersection of Liberty Farm Road and Marrone Canal, 29° 36' 14" N, 92° 18' 08" W; Paul Conover (ph) and Robert D. Purrington (ph only).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

One possible female (sex uncertain) (1963-03) on 26 June 1963, *St. Bernard*: Chandeleur Islands, North Island, B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 31813) and L. E. Williams, and Keith Arnold (*); Lowery 1974. This represents the only summer record of this species for the state. Myers recalls that the specimen appeared to be relatively fresh when found, but it was inexplicably eventually prepared as a skeleton (with questionable gonad data and a badly damaged skull, photo on p. 12).

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

One female (2007-76) on 23 December 2007-5 April 2008, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, woodlot at northwest corner of playground adjacent to cemetery; Melvin Weber and Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

One male (2007-83) on 30 December 2007, *Plaquemines*: Fort Jackson woods; Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

One female (2007-86) on 30 December 2007, *Plaquemines*: Triumph (Morrell's) Woods, approximately 2 mi. N Fort Jackson; Phillip A. Wallace (ph).

One immature female (2007-78) from 16 December 2007-13 January 2008, *Plaquemines*: 1 mi. SW Fort Jackson; Phillip A. Wallace (ph on 30 Dec) and Steven W. Cardiff (SWC 8651). Originally found by Robert D. Purrington (ph). See also LBRC 2007-83 and 2007-86.

One immature female (2008-44) on 21 September 2008, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods; Paul E. Conover (ph, see p. 11) and Dave Patton (ph only).

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)

One (2007-69) on 15 December 2007, *Cameron*: West Jetty; Paul E. Conover (ph). B. Mac Myers III was also involved in the discovery.



Adult female **Spotted Towhee** (2008-42) photographed by Jeffrey Trahan in Shreveport on 3 February 2008.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

One immature male (2007-92) on 28 October 2007, *Cameron*: Willow Island, Donna L. Dittmann (ph, *) and Steven W. Cardiff (DLD 9051).

One female (2008-03) from 17-28 January 2008, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge; Kevin Morgan (ph). This is presumably the same returning bird, which spent the previous winter at this site.

One adult male (2008-24) on 17 May 2008, *Cameron*: Cameron, Cameron Courthouse; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, see p. 11) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

One adult female (2008-42) on 3 February 2008, *Caddo*: Shreveport, C. Bickham Dickson Park; Jeffrey Trahan (ph; see above).

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*)

One (2008-22) from 10-13 May 2008, *Bossier*: Hwy. 3, at 0.5 mi. N of I-220 and 0.3 mi. W of Benton Road; **Terry Davis**, Devin Bosler (ph), Justin Bosler (ph only), and Charles E. Lyon (ph only). This represents a first state record.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*)

One (2008-22) on 3 February 2008, *Caddo*: Shreveport Regional Airport, B. Mac Myers III and Paul E. Conover (ph only).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

One (2008-29) from 19 December 2007-6 February 2008; *St. Martin*: Butte LaRose (residence of **Jim Delahoussaye**); Devin Bosler (ph on 6 Feb).

One female (2008-41) on 13 January 2008, *Plaquemines*: Boothville; **Steven W. Cardiff** and Donna L. Dittmann (ph).

One female (2008-25) from 24 January-20 February 2008, *Lafayette*: Lafayette; Stacey Scarce (ph, p. 11).

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

One adult male (2007-90) on 23 September 2007, *Jefferson*: Metairie; Beth Wiggins (ph only). Possibly the same bird photographed there the preceding 29 November 2006.

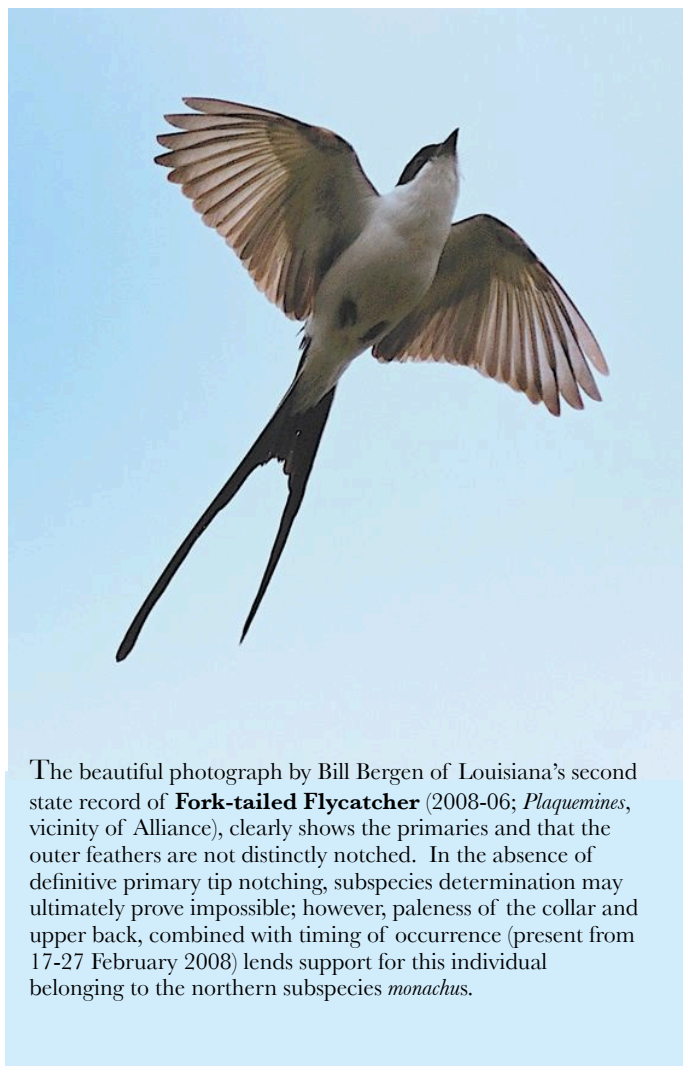
One adult male (2008-49) on 20 March 2008, *Jefferson*: Metairie; Beth Wiggins (ph only, p. 11). Possibly the same bird photographed there the preceding 29 November 2006 and/or 23 September 2007.

Additional submission of documentation /or additional information or corrections for any of these accepted records is solicited.



Adult female **Anna's Hummingbird** (2007-81) photographed by Jeffrey W. Harris in his yard in Baton Rouge - present from 14 December 2007 to 6 January 2008, it was banded by Nancy L. Newfield on 22 December 2008.

Records in this report will be incorporated into the Eleventh Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee, which will be published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*.



The beautiful photograph by Bill Bergen of Louisiana's second state record of **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (2008-06; *Plaquemines*, vicinity of Alliance), clearly shows the primaries and that the outer feathers are not distinctly notched. In the absence of definitive primary tip notching, subspecies determination may ultimately prove impossible; however, paleness of the collar and upper back, combined with timing of occurrence (present from 17-27 February 2008) lends support for this individual belonging to the northern subspecies *monachus*.



This **Flammulated Owl** (2007-87) was photographed by Buddy Horton 4 November 2007, on the "Cajun Express" oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, 78 mi. SE mouth of South Pass of the Mississippi River. This is the fourth well-documented Louisiana record and, amazingly, the second from an offshore platform.

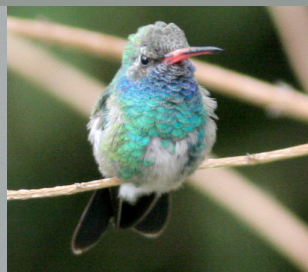
A sampling of photographic documentation submitted with records accepted at the meeting. A higher percentage of records are now being submitted with photographic documentation.



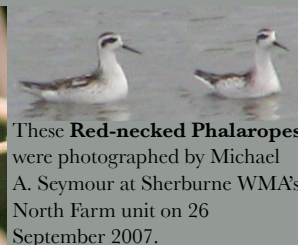
Immature **Brown Booby** (2008-48) photographed by J. V. Remsen on Holly Beach on 1 June 2008.



Immature **Ferruginous Hawk** (2008-16) photographed by Donna L. Dittmann near Sweet Lake, just north of Cameron Prairie NWR on 26 April 2008.



Immature male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (2008-20) photographed by Dave Patton at Judy Grand's yard in Lafayette on 11 February 2008.



These **Red-necked Phalaropes** were photographed by Michael A. Seymour at Sherburne WMA's North Farm unit on 26 September 2007.



Says' Phoebe (2007-52) photographed by Justin Bosler at East Jetty Woods near Cameron on 11 October 2007.



Immature **White-tailed Hawk** (2007-58) photographed by Paul E. Conover at Willow Island in Cameron Parish on 27 October 2007.

Adult male **Bullock's Oriole** (2008-49) photographed by Beth Wiggins in her Metairie yard on 20 March 2008.



Singing male **Willow Flycatcher** (2008-09), one of two photographed by Donna L. Dittmann in Ascension Parish on 12 May 2008.



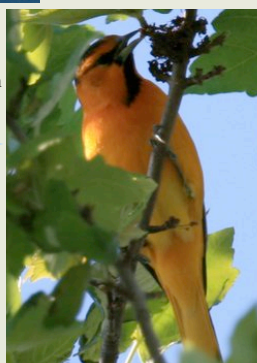
Flammulated Owl (2007-38) photographed by Robb C. Dobbs in a chenier on Rutherford Beach on 19 October 2007.



Yellow-green Vireo (2008-19) photographed during banding by Lainie LaHaye at Johnsons Bayou on 3 May 2008.



Gray Kingbird (2008-30) photographed by Devin Bosler at Grand Isle on 19 April 2008.



Black-throated Gray Warbler (2008-44) photographed by Dave Patton at Peveto Beach Woods in Cameron Parish on 21 September 2008.



Black-whiskered Vireo (2008-15) photographed by Phillip A. Wallace at Hackberry Ridge in Cameron Parish on 27 April 2008.



Cave Swallow (2007-71) photographed by Michael J. Musumecche 1 mi. S of Mouton Cove on 26 October 2007.



Female **Black-headed Grosbeak** (2008-25) photographed by Stacey Scarce while present at her yard in Lafayette between 24 January & 20 February 2008.



Adult male **Western Tanager** (2008-24) photographed by Donna L. Dittmann in Cameron on 17 May 2008.

Here is a sampling of specimen records evaluated at the meeting, which included both recent and older specimens. Seven of the older specimens reviewed represented first state records; six are shown below (photographs by D. L. Dittmann).



Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*)

One female (1933-02) on 23 December 1933, *Cameron*: Sweet Lake, 25 mi. SE Lake Charles; R. T. Newton (LSUMZ 6337). Mobile Lease; J. Jay Lafleur (LSUMZ 69201) and P. Ambrose Daigre (*).



Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

One male (1941-01) on 26 July 1941, *Gulf of Mexico*: 2 mi. off Southwest Pass; Edouard Morgan (LSUMZ 5647).



Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

One (1956-07) on 5 December 1956, *Gulf of Mexico*: 41 statute mi. SE South Pass of the Mississippi River, 28° 30'N, 88° 42'W; MV Oregon personnel (LSUMZ 22062).



Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritimus*)

One female (1973-13) molting from basic to alternate plumage on 4 April 1974, *Cameron*: near east end of the East Jetty of Calcasieu ship channel; Robert B. Hamilton and Robert E. Noble (LSUMZ 75533) and George H. Lowery, Jr. (*).



Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

One adult female (1966-01) in alternate plumage on 8 May 1966, *Cameron*: 10 mi. W Johnsons Bayou; George H. Lowery Jr. (LSUMZ 51246).



Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

One male (1950-01) molting from juvenile to first basic plumage on 12 October 1950, *East Baton Rouge*: [Baton Rouge,] LSU Campus; Robert J. Newman (LSUMZ 14875).

One of two **Willow Flycatchers** (2008-09) present on 12 May 2008, *Ascension*: 2 mi. N Hwy. 61 and I-10 freeway is represented by this specimen (bottom); also collected on the same day and at the same locality was a presumed Alder Flycatcher (top). Tissue samples of both specimens are archived at LSUMNS Genetic Resources collection.

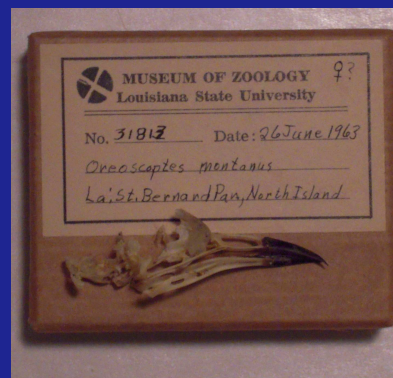


Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*)

One immature male (1974-01) on 7 November 1974, *St. Tammany*: 1 mi. W English Lookout near mouth of Pearl River; James E. Lee (LSUMZ 80123).

This Baikal Teal record did not receive a unanimous vote at the meeting and will circulate at a later date.

Skeletal preparations



The LBRC looked at two specimens represented by skeletal preparations - skeletons are stored in boxes - here is the very unusual summer record of Sage Thrasher (1963-03) showing the partial skull only.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

One possible female (sex uncertain) (1963-03) on 26 June 1963, *St. Bernard*: Chandeleur Islands, North Island, B. Mac Myers III (LSUMZ 31813) and L. E. Williams, and Keith Arnold (*); Lowery 1974. This represents the only summer record of this species for the state. Myers recalls that the specimen appeared to be relatively fresh when found, but it was inexplicably eventually prepared as a skeleton (with questionable gonad data and a badly damaged skull).



Importance of salvaged

specimens - this carcass is archived as a skeletal preparation with associated spread wing (below) and a tissue sample.



Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One sex unknown (2007-60) on 23 September 2007, *Cameron*: ca 3 mi. W Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (DLD 9123, ph) and B. Mac Myers III, and Donna L. Dittmann (*, skeleton & spread wing).

Cave Swallows, unlike Cliffs, begin primary molt on the breeding grounds (Cliffs delay until on the wintering grounds). Therefore, a bird with primary molt in late summer or fall is more likely a Cave (as is the case for this individual which, even though blurry, still clearly shows “new” dark inner and pale outer primaries). However, molt alone may not necessarily rule out a hybrid Cave X Barn swallow.

Photographs by Paul E. Conover near Freshwater City in Vermilion Parish on 2 Aug 2008.

Are all of the Cave Swallows we see in Louisiana “pure” or could some individuals be hybrids?

Do recent Cave Swallow specimens show subtle characters that may reflect genetic influence of Barn Swallow? The LBRC will look more closely at records of this species. Observers are requested to try to obtain close-up photographs to assist with this evaluation: photos should clearly show under parts, including tail feather shape and coloration. Flight shots to determine molt may also prove to be very helpful.

specimen review (cont. from p. 6)

Cave Swallows have experienced a huge expansion of their breeding range moving north, west, and east of their historic distribution. In Texas, by 1999 Cave Swallows had expanded their range by 898% (Kosciuch et al. 2006)! This expansion included a switch in preferred habitat, moving out of caves and sinkholes to exploit manmade culverts and bridges already commonly used by Barn and Cliff swallows. Hybridization with Barn Swallow was documented in Texas in colonies where both species nest (Martin & Selander 1975, Martin 1980, Martin 1982).

Separation of Cave Swallow from Cliff Swallow is fairly clear cut and basic identification criteria can be found in field guides. For a review of these as well as a Louisiana perspective of swallow occurrence see: (*LOS News* December 2002, page 5, “[Let’s take a closer look](#)”- *Louisiana Swallows, Part One: “blue-backed, rusty-throated species”). But, closer scrutiny would be required to eliminate the possibility of a hybrid. Hybrids are generally not addressed in field guides, and little information has been published regarding the extent of plumage variation one might expect in a hybrid. The limited scientific evidence indicates that first generation hybrids are phenotypically recognizable as intermediate between the parental species (e.g., under part coloration, shape and coloration of outer rectrices). But, what*



Cave Swallow specimens (2007-91) from 26 October 2007, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana; south of Thornwell; see p. 9. All are juveniles in transition to first basic plumage and generally “look” like Cave Swallows. Genetic analysis is likely necessary to confirm whether subtle plumage characters such as dark in the throat or white in the tail are the result of individual variation or hybridization. Photograph: D. L. Dittmann.

about backcross hybrids? One might guess that hybrid-characters could be much more subtle.

Even if limited hybridization occurs only at some Texas colonies, it seems plausible that among the ever-increasing numbers of extralimital individuals (likely related to range expansion in Texas; McNair and Post 2001), at least a small percentage could be hybrids. Recent Texas and Louisiana specimens of Cave Swallow at LSUMNS show some interesting characters that may be outside the typical variation of Mexican Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*), the only subspecies thus far documented for Louisiana. But, more study is needed to confirm this. Observers should be on the lookout for this possibility.



- Kosciuch, K. L., C. G. Ormston, & K. A. Arnold. 2006. Breeding range expansion by Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) in Texas. *Southwestern Naturalist* 51(2): 203-209.
- McNair, D. B. & W. Post. 2006. Review of the occurrence of vagrant Cave Swallows in the United States and Canada. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 4: 485-501.
- Martin, R. F. 1980. Analysis of hybridization between the hirundinid genera *Hirundo* and *Petrochelidon* in Texas. *Auk* 97: 148-159.
- Martin, R. F. 1982. Proximate ecology and mechanics of “intergeneric” swallow hybridization (*Hirundo rustica* X *Petrochelidon fulva*). *Southwestern Naturalist* 27(2): 218-220.
- Martin, R. F. & R. K. Selander. 1975. Morphological and biochemical evidence of hybridization between Cave and Barn swallows. *Condor* 77: 362-364.

The Louisiana Bird Records Committee

LBRC Newsletter

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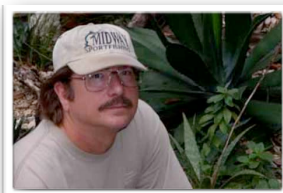


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