LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting Report 2012







Annual Meeting: 10 March 2012

Synopsis of the 2012 LBRC Annual Meeting

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

The LBRC's 2012 Annual Meeting was held on 10 March at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM and adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Record Review

Members reviewed 96 First Circulation records. Records included on the agenda were chosen at the discretion of the Secretary, and mainly involved welldocumented, relatively noncontroversial 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). A large percentage of these records were chosen from records posted at the online LBRC

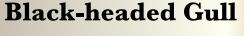
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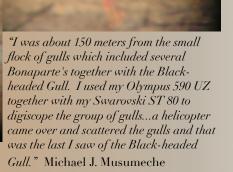






(Chroicocephalus ridibund<mark>us)</mark>

This first basic Black-headed Gull (2011-024) was digiscoped by Michael J. Musumeche on 16 March 2011 in Vermilion Parish approximately 2 mi. northwest of Mouton Cove. Although these photographs are somewhat blurry and overexposed there is no question as to the identity of this bird. Mike's photographs clearly show its size next to Bonaparte's Gulls, and, as it took off, the dusky coloration to underside of primary feathers. This record represents the first accepted record of this species for Louisiana. Unfortunately, it could not be relocated after the initial observation.



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pending records pages, and most appearing on pages 6 and 7 http://losbird.org/lbrc/viewreport.html.

For all First Circulation records reviewed at a Meeting, Member votes are anonymous and without comment, and for a record to be accepted it must receive a unanimous accept vote. If a record vote is not unanimous or there appeared to be some problem with a record, then that record will begin a traditional First Circulation via "e-Round."

Ninety of the 96 First Circulation records were accepted at the Meeting. Highlights included the first Louisiana occurrences of Prairie Falcon, Blackheaded Gull, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, as well as second records of Gray Flycatcher, Brewer's Sparrow, and Cassin's Sparrow. The Committee was also able to review a White-tailed Hawk specimen from 1888, which represents the first record for the state (see p. 3). Also notable was a Red Crossbill, the first well-documented record in almost forty years.

Six records did not receive a unanimous accept vote and will circulate in e-Round 141.

Louisiana's second Gray Flycatcher (2011-058) discovered and photographed by Michael A. Seymour at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area on 17 November 2011.

Other LBRC Business:

Fourth Circulation record Discussion and Resolution

Three Fourth Circulation records were discussed and resolved at this Meeting and these will be reported in an upcoming LBRC report.

Member Elections

Terms of two voting Members concluded at the Spring 2012 Meeting: Curtis C. Sorrells (Kenner) and Steven W. Cardiff (Saint Gabriel). Both were renominated and re-elected for another four-year term. Officers Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary) and Steven W. Cardiff (Chair) were also re-elected for another one-year term.

Changes to the Review List

Since publication of the LBRC 2011 Annual Report, the Review List has increased in number by virtue of addition of three new species to the State List: Prairie Falcon, Black-headed Gull, and Ladderbacked Woodpecker. There were no other additions at

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this meeting. The Review List contains 153 species, and the State List increases to 474 species.

Members requested review in consideration of possible removal from the Review List several species that are becoming more regular and perhaps nearing LBRC Review List threshold limits as defined by the Bylaws:

2) The species included on the Review List will be as determined on a regular basis by the LBRC. In general, the Review List will consist of species that have been recorded within Louisiana and adjacent ocean an average of four or fewer times per year averaged over the ten year period immediately preceding revision of the Review List. By majority vote of a quorum of Members at a meeting, the LBRC may, as it sees fit, add species to or delete species from the Review List. Reports or records of species for which there are no accepted records for Louisiana shall also be considered.

The following species were discussed with regard to possible removal from the Review List: Burrowing Owl, Glaucous and Great Black-backed gulls, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Spotted Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole. We also discussed a few pelagic species that appear to be regular offshore including Audubon's and Cory's shearwaters, and Leach's Storm-Petrel. Although the Review List criteria are not absolute (and thus more of a guideline), in general the LBRC prefers to accumulate a sufficient number of

Two subspecies of Cory's Shearwater occur in the Gulf of Mexico and may be "split" in the future. Unfortunately, this individual could not be assigned to subspecies.

accepted records prior to a species' removal from the Review List. These may approach or exceed 40 (equal to four/year averaged over a 10 year period) or may well exceed 40 if there are complex identification issues. Only two of the species discussed have crossed the 40-accepted-record threshold (Glaucous Gull and Western Tanager); however, records do not yet exceed the "four/year average." See also Allen's Hummingbird on p. 14. None of the other species discussed have the total number of accepted records close to the 40/10 yr. threshold, nor do they average in excess of 4/yr. Some relatively recent additions to the Review List (such as Burrowing Owl) have not yet been on the list for 10 years.

Pelagic species are more problematic because accumulation of records is correlated to offshore coverage, which has generally been sporadic at best. Furthermore, the "somewhat regular" pelagic species still on the Review List can be missed on any given offshore trip. Thus, the LBRC will continue to consider them rare or irregular in occurrence and retain them on the Review List until distribution and abundance are better resolved. Anticipated changes in taxonomy of pelagics may also have ramifications for Review List status, e.g., if currently recognized subspecies of Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's Shearwater, Calonectris d. diomedea, and Cory's Shearwater, C. d. borealis) are elevated to full species. In the event of taxonomic change, the LBRC will re-evaluate status accordingly.

Two species, Say's Phoebe and Green-tailed Towhee, staged invasions into Louisiana during fall-winter 2011-2012, possibly doubling-tripling the total number of records. Both cases are considered exceptional, and this should be taken into account when factoring an "average" for Review List status. If an upward trend continues, then their status may be reevaluated. But, at present, this season is considered anomalous.

In conclusion, LBRC members wanted to emphasize to the birding community the continued need to submit documentation for species approaching the Review List removal threshold.

Records reviewed at the meeting supported by specimen evidence (all specimens archived at LSUMNS):

Louisiana's First Record of White-tailed Hawk

Four records on the agenda were documented with specimens and all but one were also represented by photographs taken in the field prior to collection (and included in this newsletter). Perhaps the most notable was a specimen (photo right) of a White-tailed Hawk (1888-01) collected 18 November 1888 in southwestern Calcasieu Parish. The specimen had not been previously examined by the LBRC because it was in the Tulane University collection, which had been placed in storage. Transfer of the Tulane bird research collection to LSUMNS in 2011 facilitated examination of the specimen at the 2012 Meeting. This represents the only specimen of a White-tailed Hawk collected in Louisiana.





Louisiana's First Record of

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Picoides scalaris)

Within two months of the above Black-headed Gull, the LBRC accepted another species new to the state. This adult male Ladder-backed Woodpecker (2011-040) was initially spotted by Paul E. Conover on 14 May 2011. The woodpecker was moving southwest through a Cameron Parish chenier woodland near the end of Lighthouse Road along Sabine Pass.

Paul was able to obtain initial photographs. Then, he was able to alert nearby birding companions by cell phone. As the bird continued to move through the chenier, some of his companions were also able to document its presence. Robert D. Purrington (photograph below left), B. Mac Myers III (below center), and Dave Patton (flight shot below right) submitted photographs they obtained before the woodpecker was lost from view. It unfortunately was not relocated.



Paul's photographs (gallery at left) clearly show characters that support the identification as this species, including barred back, and face and crown pattern.

Paul wrote the following about keeping tabs on the bird after he first spotted it, "The bird disappeared behind trees and I followed; I was afraid it had kept going. I luckily found it perched in a tree a few minutes later and snapped a few pictures without looking at the bird through binoculars. It flew farther W after about 4 seconds (judging by photo time stamps). It still seemed a good bet for Ladder-backed, so I alerted Dave Patton by phone ..."

In the excitement of the moment, it is often difficult to remember details about an observation, and Paul used his camera memory data to help reconstruct the events of this observation when writing his report form. Much like taking notes, the camera's "time stamp" or EXIF data can be invaluable.

Exchangeable image file format data (commonly referred to as EXIF data) can be very helpful to an observer to assist with reconstructing the events of an observation - a form of digital notes (inset left). But these data are only good if the date and time are set properly on your camera. Observers are reminded to verify settings to confirm that camera settings are correct before heading into the field.

Lens: 70.0-300.0 mm f/4.5-5.6 Flash: Fired

OUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

First circulation records accepted at the Annual Meeting 2012

Compiled by Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary (

format follows that of LBRC reports previously published in the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology see: http://losbird.org/jlo_v8.pdf

Cinnamon Teal (Anas cyanoptera)

One male (2011-009) 18 December 2011, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR headquarters; **Paul E. Conover** (ph on p. 6), Jay V. Huner, and Erik I. Johnson (ph).

Audubon's Shearwater (Puffinus lherminieri)

Four individuals (2011-046) on 24 July 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: over Mississippi Canyon, approximately 50 mi. SSW Southwest Pass: N 28.180139°,W 89.642778° (one individual), N 28.223528°, W 89.667806° (2 individuals), and N 28.318417°, W 89.65075° (one individual); Justin Bosler (ph), Jeffrey W. Harris, Nancy L. Newfield, and Dave Patton (photos only, p. 6).

One (2011-047) on 25 September 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: vicinity of Mississippi Canyon; John P. Sevenair (ph), Erik I. Johnson, Robert D. Purrington (photo only), Dave Patton (photo only, p. 6).

Cory's Shearwater (Calonectris diomedea)

One (2011-048) on 25 September 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: vicinity of Mississippi Canyon; John P. Sevenair (ph, p. 3), Erik I. Johnson, Dave Patton (photos only), and Robert D. Purrington (photos only, p. 6).

Leach's Storm-Petrel (Oceanodroma leucorhoa)

Four (2011-096) observed during a LSUMNS pelagic survey 1-2 July 2011, *Gulf of Mexico*: 54.7 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River N 28.2085° W 89.06712° (one individual, ph on p. 6); approximately 70 mi. SE South Pass Mississippi River N 28.2908°, W 88.30374° (two individuals, one collected, DLD 10279, immature male); approximately 65 mi. S South Pass Mississippi River N 28.30865°, W 88.39486° (one individual, photos); Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ).

American Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber)

One adult (2011-043) from 21 April – 31 May 2011, *Cameron*: Grand Chenier; **Carrie** (ph on p. 6) **and Brac Salyers**, James Beck (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), Justin Bosler (ph), Kevin Leigh (photos only, including one below; portion of same photo enlarged at right), J. V. Huner, and Tom Finnie (photos only). This is the famous "HDNT" (previously LBRC 2007-63, 2009-35) returning for the third visit.



White-tailed Hawk (Buteo albicaudatus)

One immature male (1888-01) on 18 November 1888, *Calcasieu*: Sabine Station; specimen (Tulane University No. 2541, now LSUMZ No. 182650, ph on p. 3), collector unknown.

One (2012-026) on 22 February-3 March 2012, se. *Calcasieu*: vicinity of Harris Road, near intersection of Sidney Derouen Road; **Paul E. Conover** (ph on p. 6), Justin Bosler (ph), and David Ringer (ph)

Ferruginous Hawk (Buteo regalis)

One (2011-017) on 27 March 2011, *Cameron*: 3.4 mi. E of Johnsons Bayou; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 6). Note: this individual may involve same individual(s) previously reviewed: LBRC 2010-040 or 2010-042 (reported during October and December 2010 respectively).

One light morph immature (2012-001) on 6 February 2012, *Cameron*: Lacassine NWR, Pool Unit; **Donna L.**

Dittmann (ph on p. 6) and Steven W. Cardiff.

One light morph immature (2012-009) on 19-26 February 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: just W of Welsh landfill, vicinity Oilfield X Miller Oilfield roads; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 6).

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

One adult (2012-020) on 6 February 2012, *Calcasieu*: W of Illinois Plant Road between Hwy. 14 and Cameron Parish line; **Donna L. Dittmann** (ph on p. 6) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Prairie Falcon (Falco mexicanus)

One (2011-045) on 28 December 2011, *Vermilion*: east side White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, near west end of Pine Island Road; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 1 & 11) and Steven W. Cardiff. This is the first accepted Louisiana record.

Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)

One adult female (2011-098) on 18 May 2011, *Terrebonne*: west tip Grand (Big) Timbalier Island; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 10) and **Steven W. Cardiff** (ph on p. 10).

One (2011-049) on 16-17 October 2011, *Vermilion*: near S end Larry Road, approximately 3 mi. SSW Indian Bayou; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 10) and Jeffrey W. Harris.

Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus)

One in first basic plumage (2011-013) from 12 April-31 May 2011, *Cameron*: various locations along Calcasieu Ship Channel/Davis Road, S of Cameron; Devin Bosler (ph on p. 10), Michael Musumeche (ph), Robert D. Purrington (ph on p. 10, Kevin Leigh (photo only, p. 10), Tom Trenchard (ph), Mary Mehaffey (photos only), and Dave Patton (photos only, see also *North American Birds* 65(3)60).

Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)

One in first basic plumage (2011-024) on 16 March 2011, *Vermilion*: approximately 1/4 mi. W of intersection of

2011-048

Photo showcase I: ducks through hawks



(left) This male **Cinnamon Teal** (2011-009) was photographed by Paul E. Conover on 18 December 2011 at Cameron Prairie NWR headquarters.

(right) One of four **Audubon's Shearwaters** (2011-046) observed during a pelagic trip 24 July 2011 to the Mississippi Canyon; this individual over blue water is in the process of primary molt. Compare to 2011-047 (left) also in the vicinity of Mississippi Canyon on 25 September 2011, showing fresh plumage and no primary molt. Both photos by Dave Patton. The **Cory's Shearwater** (2011-048; below left) was also documented on 25 September in the vicinity of

Mississippi Canyon (photo by R. D. Purrington).



(left) One of four Leach's Storm-Petrels (2011-096) observed during a LSUMNS pelagic survey 1-2 July 2011, in blue water 55-70 miles south of South Pass Mississippi River. Photo by Donna L. Dittmann.

2011-046



(left) This second year **White-tailed Hawk** (2012-026) was found and photographed by Paul E. Conover in southeastern Calcasieu Parish on 22 February 2012.







2011-017



2012-026

Three records of **Ferruginous Hawk** were on the Meeting agenda.

(photos above) Although distant, photos of this bird (2011-017) taken by Paul E. Conover near Johnsons Bayou 27 March 2011 confirm the ID as Ferruginous Hawk; this was possibly one of two individuals documented in the area late in 2011.

(photos right) This light morph immature (2012-001) found by Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff at the Lacassine NWR Pool Unit on 6 February 2012, was more cooperative and flew nearly overhead of the observers. Note the bulging crop.

(photos left) Another light morph immature (2012-009) found by Paul E. Conover northwest of the Welsh landfill on 19 February 2012, although the photos are distant and thus blurry, it appears to be different from the Lacassine Pool individual based on the appearance of the tail (compare to images on right). These images demonstrate how even relatively poor photos can be useful.

(photos right) This adult **Golden Eagle** (2012-020) was photographed by Donna L. Dittmann on 6 February 2012, along Illinois Plant Road just outside Lacassine NWR Pool Unit and about an hour earlier than the **Ferruginous Hawk** (2012-001) making for an exciting raptor day in northern Cameron Parish.



2012-020

2011-043

Prairie Road and Detraz Road (becomes Marsh Road) on the N side of Marsh Road, approximately 2 mi. NW of Mouton Cove; Michael J. Musumeche (ph on p. 2). This is the first accepted Louisiana record.

California Gull (Larus californicus)

One adult female (2011-097) on 9 October 2011, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 10, DLD 10343)) and Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ). Identified as "expected" subspecies *L. c. albertaensis*.

One adult (2011-050) on 22 October 2011, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 10).

Parasitic Jaeger (Stercorarius parasiticus)

One light morph adult (2012-022) on 5 January 2012, *Cameron*: Gulf of Mexico, approximately 2 mi. offshore of Rutherford Beach; Dave Patton (ph on p. 10).

One light morph adult (2012-021) on 7 February 2012, *Cameron*: Gulf of Mexico, approximately 2 mi. S Cameron Recreation Center (= off Rutherford Beach); Dave Patton (ph on p. 10).

Long-eared Owl (Asio otus)

One (2011-051) on 10 November 2011, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou School; **Justin Bosler** (ph), Devin Bosler (ph) and Thomas Finnie (ph on p. 10).

Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia)

One (2011-052) on 20 August 2011, *Cameron*: approximately 4.5 mi. W of town of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 10).

One (2011-053) from 7 December 2011 to at least 6 March 2012, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou School; Thomas Finnie (ph on p. 10), Mary Mehaffey (ph on p. 10), Erik I. Johnson (ph), and William Matthews (ph on p. 10). Seen by many observers; reportedly found by Devin and Justin Bosler.

One (2011-054) on 21 & 28 December 2011, *Jefferson*: Hwy. 1, construction site at W side Caminada Pass; **Devin Bosler** (ph), Christopher G. Brantley, Erik I. Johnson (ph on p. 10), and Heydi Lopes (ph only).

Lesser Nighthawk (Chordeiles acutipennis)

One female (2011-014) on 28 April 2011, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 11), Erik I. Johnson, Devin Bosler, and Tom Finnie (photos only).

Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna)

One immature male (2011-055) on 4-27 November 2011, *West Carroll*: Oak Grove, 8791 Hwy. 2; **Roselie Overby** and Stephen L. Pagans (ph on p. 11).

Allen's Hummingbird (Selasphorus sasin)

Four-year old adult female (2011-057) from 17 November 2011-29 February 2012, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, 19170 Antenor Street (residence of Claire Thomas); Tom Trenchard (ph on p. 14). This is a returning bird first banded as an immature at the Thomas residence on 2 January 2008 (C26869) by Linda Beall and recaptured this season 11 December 2011 (band number confirmed). This individual has not been previously reviewed by the LBRC. C26869 returned to this residence during intervening seasons, being captured by Beall on 18 November 2008, 30 January 2010 and 8 January 2011.

One adult male (2011-101) 25 November 2011-24 February 2012, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 122 Memory Lane; Dave Patton (banded C06062; ph on p. 14).

One immature male (2011-0100) banded on 13 December 2011, *Layafette*: Lafayette, residence of Lou Drouant; Dave Patton (banded C06071; ph on p. 14). One adult male (2012-024) on 28 February 2012, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 122 Memory Lane; Dave Patton (banded C06191; ph on p. 14).

One immature male (2012-023) on 14 January 2012, *Iberia*:, approximately 4 mi. SE New Iberia, residence of Geanna Gravois; Dave Patton (banded C06097; ph on p. 14).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Picoides scalaris)

One adult male (2011-040) on 14 May 2011, *Cameron*: near terminus of Lighthouse Road along east side Sabine Pass, approximately 9.5 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou,N 29.718611°, W 93.848889° W; **Paul E. Conover** (ph), Robert D. Purrington (ph), B. Mac Myers III (ph), and Dave Patton (photos only). This is the first State Record. See photo gallery on p. 4.

Gray Flycatcher (Empidonax wrightii)

One (2011-058) from 17-18 November 2011, *Vermilion*: White Lake Wetland Conservation Area nature trail near S terminus of Hwy. 91, S of Gueydan; **Michael A. Seymour** (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (photo below) and Steven W. Cardiff, and Jay V. Huner. This is the second state record.



Say's Phoebe (Sayornis saya)

One (2011-060) on 29-30 September 2011, *St. Charles*: Bonnet Carre' Spillway, S of locks; Melvin Weber (ph on p. 11).

One (2011-061) on 1 October 2011, *Cameron*: Lighthouse Road along east side Sabine Pass, approximately 10 mi. W Johnsons Bayou; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 11).

One (2011-062) on 9 October 2011, *Calcasieu*: approximately 4 mi. W of Bell City near intersection of Fruge and Rossignol roads; **Paul E. Conover** (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 11), and Steven W. Cardiff.

One (2011-063) from 28 October 2011 through at least 5 February 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: ½ mi. W Niblett X Watkins roads, 4.1 mi. WNW Thornwell; **Erik I. Johnson** (ph on p. 11), Mary Mehaffey (ph), Jay Huner, Bill Fontenot, Walker Wilson (ph), and Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff. This individual was found during the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival 2011 and seen by numerous observers.

One (2011-099) on 29 October 2011, *Jefferson Davis*: "Hughes Road" between Hwy. 382 on west and Lyons Road on east; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 11) and Steven W. Cardiff.

One (2011-102) on 18 November 2011-29 January 2012, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, Pintail Loop; Devin Bosler (ph), Jay Huner (ph) and Tom Finnie (ph only, p. 11). Reportedly found by Paul Suchanek.

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One (2011-064) on 10 December 2011, *Jefferson Davis*: intersection of Clifton and Bell roads, N side of Clifton; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 11).

Three (2011-065) on 18 December 2011, *Cameron*: 1 mi. E of Hwy. 384 X southern terminus of Welch Road; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 11) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Two (2011-066) on 28 December 2011, Vermilion: east side White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, near west end of Pine Island Road; Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff (ph on p. 11).

One (2012-004) on 8 & 11 January 2012, *Richland*: intersection Dean and Sawmill Roads, N 32° 26' 09.08", W 91° 54' 33.21"; William Matthews (ph on p. 11).

Gray Kingbird (Tyrannus dominicensis)

One (2011-067) on 27 May 2011, Jefferson: east end of Grand Isle, Grand Isle State Park; Devin Bosler (photo at right).

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

One pair (2011-068) on 7 April 2011, Vermilion: White Lake Wetland Conservation Area

2011-073 below.

Wetland Conservation Area, vicinity of White Lake Lodge, approximately 6 mi. S of Gueydan; Toddy Guidry (ph below left), Jay V. Huner, and B. Mac Myers III (ph of nest below right). See also record no.







One (2011-069) from 30 April-8 May 2011, *Cameron*: Oak Grove, Oak Grove Sanctuary/Rutherford Motel Woods; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff, David L'Hoste, James Beck (ph), B. Mac Myers III (ph), and Justin Bosler (ph). This is likely one of two present and reported off and on since Spring 2009. See also LBRC nos. 2009-42, 2009-43, and 2011-012.

One (2011-070) on 3 and 9 October 2011, *Cameron*: Oak Grove, Oak Grove Sanctuary/Rutherford Motel Woods; Melvin Weber (ph on p. 12), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff. See also LBRC no. 2011-069.

One (2011-071) on 17 December 2011 and two in same vicinity on 23 December 2011, *Cameron*: Hackberry, 191 Floyd Little Road; **Jeffrey W. Harris** (ph on p. 12) and Mary Mehaffey (ph).

One (2011-072) from 4 November -16 December 2011, Jefferson Davis: Niblett Road ca. 2.2 mi. W of Hwy. 99; **Justin Bosler** (ph on p. 12), and Bill Fontenot and Walker Wilson (ph on 16 December 2011).

Two (2011-073) on 28 December 2011, *Vermilion*: White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, vicinity of White Lake Lodge; Daniel F. Lane (ph on p. 12). These individuals are probably the same pair present at this site since 2009, e.g., see record no. 2011-068.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus tyrannulus)

One (2012-003) on 21 January 2012, *Plaquemines*: adjacent to Diamond Recreation Center; Phillip A. Wallace (ph at right) and Mary Mehaffey (ph on p. 12).

Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii)

One (2011-039) on 2 January 2011, *Plaquemines*: Morells Woods off Hwy. 23, N of Fort Jackson; Glenn Ousset and Don Norman (photo only on p. 12).

One (2011-074) on 1 October 2011, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 12).

Black-whiskered Vireo (Vireo altiloquus)

One adult (2011-075) on 12 April 2011, and presumably the same individual there 16-17 April 2011, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Sureway Woods; Scott Terrill (ph on p. 12), David P. Muth, Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 12), Steven W. Cardiff (ph). Reportedly first discovered by Colin Boeh on 12 April.

One adult (2011-076) on 16 April 2011, Jefferson: Grand Isle, TNC Grilletta Tract and possibly the same or another individual nearby 17 April at Coulon Rigaud Lane; Donna L. Dittmann (ph on p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff, David P. Muth (ph on p 12).

Townsend's Warbler (Setophaga townsendi)

One male (2011-077) on 1 October 2011, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; B. Mac Myers III (photo below left). Reportedly found earlier same day by Devin Bosler.





Black-throated Gray Warbler (Setophaga nigrescens)

One immature male (2011-078) on 18 December 2011-28 January 2012, *Cameron*: Hacketts Corner, Hwys. 27 X 384, E of Sweet Lake; Steven W. Cardiff (ph) and Donna L. Dittmann (ph above right), and Michael G. Harvey.

Green-tailed Towhee (Pipilo chlorurus)

One (2011-080) on 29 October 2011, *Iberia*: 1.9 mi. SW of Patoutville sugar mill , N 29.891131°, W 91.759043°; Matt Conn (ph on p. 13).

One (2011-081) from 4 November 2011-28 January 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: W Niblett Road near intersection of Clyde Road; **Daniel F. Lane** (ph on p. 13), Jacob Cooper, Bill Fontenot, Walker Wilson (ph), and Michael G. Harvey.

One (2011-082) from 7 November 2011, *Rapides*: Elbow Slough WMA, S side of Hwy. 3170 approximately 0.25 mi. W of intersection with Hwy. 1; Jay V. Huner (ph on p. 13) and Rosemary Seidler (ph).

One (2011-083) on 12 November 2011, *Red River*: Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Pierre Unit, Yates Tract, N 32.11247°, W 93.46450°; Larry R. Raymond and Jeffrey Trahan (ph on p. 13). Bird reportedly found by Terry Davis.

One (2011-084) on 30 November -7 December 2011, *Acadia*: W. side Leger Road, ½ mi. S Mark Twain Road, 4.9 mi. SSE Crowley; **Michael A. Seymour** (ph on p. 13), Erik I. Johnson, Jeffrey W. Harris, and Tom Trenchard.

Two (2011-085) on 18 December 2011, Cameron: at SE

Green-tailed Towhee records continued next page

end of Coastal Club Road (Hwy. 384, E of Fruge Road); Phillip A. Wallace (ph on p. 13). David P. Muth found the first of two birds present together.

One (2012-005) on 21 January-5 February 2012, *Plaquemines*: Foster's Road off Hwy. 23 near W Pointe a la Hache; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph on p. 13), and Robert D. Purrington (ph).

One (2012-006) on 22 January 2012, *Cameron*: approximately 6 mi. E of Cameron, just E of Willow Island area; Paul E. Conover (ph) and Dave Patton (ph only, p. 13).

One (2012-007) on 5 February 2012, *Cameron*: Little Chenier, on Little Chenier Road 1-2 mi. E of Muria Road; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-008) on 19-24 March 2012, *Jefferson Davis:* Miller Oilfield Road just W of Oilfield Road, W of Welsh landfill and approximately 3 mi. NE of Lacassine; **Paul E.**

Conover (ph on p. 13), Tom Finnie (ph), Justin Bosler (ph on p. 13), Erik I. Johnson (ph), and Jay V. Huner (ph only).

One (2012-019) on 19 February 2012, *Tangipahoa*: NW of Husser, N side of Neal Road, 75 ft. W of intersection with Hwy. 445; Harvey Patten and Janine Robin (ph on p. 13).

One (2012-025) on 4 March 2012, *St. Tammany*: Money Hill Golf Estates, Janine Robin (ph) and **Mary Mehaffey** (ph only, p. 13).

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

One male (2011-087) on 30 October 2011, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Justin Bosler (ph) and Rosemary Seidler (ph). Reportedly found by Cody DeStein.

One female (2011-103) on 4 November 2011, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Thomas Finnie (ph).

One male (2011-089) on 16 December 2011, *Cameron:* Coto Plot Road, S of Hwy. 14, just E of Lacassine Bayou; Christopher G. Brantley and **Walker Wilson** (ph on p. 15).

One female (2011-088) on 23 December 2011, *Cameron*: woodlot on 2400 block of Trosclair Road, about 9 mi. E of Cameron; Paul E. Conover (ph on p. 15).

One male (2012-012) on 11 January 2012, *Union*: Meridian Church, west of Marion, N 32.896322°,W 92.3437°; Stephen Pagans (ph on p. 15).

One (2012-013) on 14 January 2012, *Webster*: Yellow Pine Road Christian Church, Yellow Pine Road, SSW of Sibley; James L. Ingold (ph on p. 15).

One female (2012-014) on 29 January 2012, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph) and Dave Patton (ph). Treated as different individual from 2011-103.

One female (2012-015) on 5 February 2012, *Cameron*, Little Chenier, on Little Chenier Road 1-2 mi. E of Muria Road; Paul E. Conover (ph).

Cassin's Sparrow (Peucaea cassinii)

Two males and one female (2011-086) from 1 May-1 June 2011, *Bossier:* Cane's Landing on Red River in Bossier City, N 32.52579°, W 93.74515°; **Terry Davis**, Jeff Trahan (photo below from 1 May), Nancy L. Newfield, John P. Sevenair (ph



(photos only). This is the record for Louisiana.

Brewer's Sparrow (Spizella breweri)

One immature male specimen (2011-079) on 8 October 2011, *Cameron*: near Johnsons Bayou; Paul E. Conover (ph, two below, LSUMZ) and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 10340). This is the second State Record.



Lark Bunting (Calamospiza melanocorys)

One female (2012-010) on 19 February-- March 2012, Jefferson Davis: Miller Oilfield Road just W of Oilfield Road, W of Welsh landfill and approximately 3 mi. NE of Lacassine; **Paul E. Conover** (ph, one below right), Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff (ph); Tom Finnie (ph), Justin Bosler (ph on p. 13), Jay V. Huner (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph only), James Beck (ph only), Dave Patton (ph only, one below center), Tom Finnie (ph only), Gary Broussard (ph only, one below left), and David Ringer (ph).





Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)

One (2011-092) on 18 December 2011, *Calcasieu*: approximately 8.5 mi. S of Iowa, S/E side of Fruge Road

approximately 1.5 mi. S of Fruge Road x Hwy. 14, N 30.104176°, W 93.030052°; Michael A. Seymour (ph) and Walker Wilson (ph, one at right).

One adult male (2011-093) on 30 December 2011, *Lafayette*: near Milton; Toddy Guidry (ph, two below).





Photo showcase 2: shorebirds through owls



Two **Red-necked Phalarope** records were accepted including an adult female (2011-098) on 18 May 2011 on the W tip of Grand (Big) Timbalier Island, Donna L. Dittmann (top right) and Steven W. Cardiff (right) and this juvenal plumaged individual (2011-049) photographed by Paul E. Conover (left) on Larry Road in Vermilion Parish, 16 October 2011.

2011-013

This worn first basic plumage **Little Gull** (2011-013) was seen by many observers between 12 April-31 May 2011, along Calcasieu Ship Channel south of Cameron. Photographed (left) on discovery by Devin Bosler, on 1 May by Kevin Leigh (far right) and 15 May by Robert D. Purrington (right, very worn primaries evident).



Two **California Gulls** were documented on Rutherford Beach. An adult female (2011-097) was found on 9 October 2011 (left, photo by Donna L. Dittmann) and a different adult (2011-050) was photographed on 22 October 2011 by Paul E. Conover (right: see arrow).





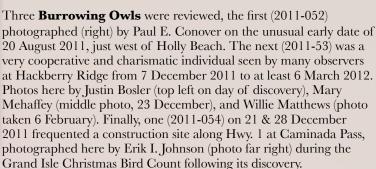
2012-021



Dave Patton photographed two **Parasitic Jaegers** just offshore near Cameron, a light morph subadult (2012-022; photos left, note mottling on underwings indicating a non-adult) on 5 January 2012, and a light morph adult (2012-021; compare uniformly dark underwings) on 7 February 2012.



A **Long-eared Owl** (2011-051) found 10 November 2011, near Johnsons Bayou could only be relocated later the same day (right) when photographed by Thomas Finnie (ph).







2012-053



Louisiana's First Record of Prairie Falcon (Falco mexicanus)

This Prairie Falcon (2011-045), observed on 28 December 2011 on the east side of White Lake Wetland Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish during the White Lake Christmas Bird Count, is Louisiana's first accepted record. Found by Donna L. Dittmann (photos) and Steven W. Cardiff near the west end of Pine Island Road, the photographs clearly show identification characters as well as lack of jesses or other signs of captivity. Unusual falcons are always suspect because of possible falconer escapes. Also lending support to a wild origin, there were reports from Arkansas and Mississippi earlier in the season.

"Within moments after Steve remarked that we were still missing Peregrine for the day, he spotted this bird passing to our left. Immediately we both suspected it was not a Peregrine and I jumped out of the car and started taking pictures as it banked and flew over us. It's important to have your camera ready at a moment's notice." D. L. Dittmann



Photo showcase 3: nighthawks through Say's Phoebe

The female **Lesser Nighthawk** (2011-014; below left) was seen by many observers as it roosted at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 28 April 2011 (photo by Paul E. Conover).



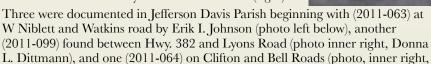


Providing the first record for N LA, this immature male Anna's Hummingbird (2011-055; above right) was photographed in Oak Grove, West Carroll Parish by Stephen L. Pagans on 8 November 2011.



Beginning fall 2011, unprecedented numbers of Say's Phoebes were detected starting with this one (2011-060) found and photographed (left) by Melvin Weber on 29 September at the Bonnet Carre' Spillway. Paul Conover photographed (at left) the second (2011-061) of the season on 1 October 2011, 10 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou.

Another found by Paul Conover (2011-062) in Calcasieu Parish west of Bell City was poorly photographed at sunset 9 October 2011 by Donna L. Dittmann (right).









2011-066 2012-004

2011-065

Two more records in Cameron Parish included one (2011-102) at Cameron Prairie NWR (photo Tom Finnie, above far right), and an amazing three together (2011-065) near the terminus of Fruge Road south of Holmwood (photo of one by Donna L. Dittmann, left). In Vermilion Parish, two (2011-066) were together at the White Lake Wetland Conservation Area (photo of one Steven W. Cardiff, far left). Finally, one (2012-004) photographed (in flight near left by Willie Matthews) in Richland Parish was a first for northeast Louisiana.

Photo showcase 4: Great Kiskadee through vireos







Only one **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was reviewed. As for Great Kiskadee, some records of winter Brown-cresteds may pertain to returning individuals. This Brown-crested (2012-003) was at Diamond, where the species has been reported in preceding winters (photo at right by Mary Mehaffey, 28 January 2012).

All but one of the **Great Kiskadee** records were from localities where this species has already been previously documented and may pertain to residents/returnees. This includes one (2011-069) reported 30 April-8 May 2011 at Oak Grove, *Cameron* (photo left by Donna L. Dittmannnote mud-stained chest) and the same or another there again in the fall (2011-070) on 3 and 9 October 2011 (photo Melvin Weber, inset left). One to two individuals have been at this site off and on since Spring 2009.

One to two individuals (2011-071) were again located on the Sabine NWR CBC 17 December 2011 at Hackberry (photo by Jeffrey W. Harris, left). Up to three individuals were at this locality in winter 2010-11.

Also from the CBC period, two (2011-073) were observed at the White Lake Lodge 28 December 2011 by Daniel F. Lane (photo left). These individuals were also reported during spring 2011 (see p. 8; an occupied nest was also documented) and are possibly the same pair present at this site since February 2009. Great Kiskadees are expanding their range and continued submission of reports of known as well as new individuals or pairs is requested.

A new location, and the first record for Jefferson Davis Parish, was one (2011-072) discovered on 4 November 2011 by Justin Bosler (photo, bottom left). Note uneven tail feathers showing molt in progress (also wing molt; see new darker tertials).





Two **Bell's Vireo** records were accepted, a wintering bird (2011-039) just N of Fort Jackson 2 January 2011 (photo by Don Norman below), and a fall migrant (2011-074) at Peveto Woods Sanctuary 1 October 2011 (at left by Paul E. Conover).



Two to three **Black-whiskered Vireos** were observed on Grand Isle during spring 2011. Here we treat as two records, the first (2011-075) at "Sureway Woods," 12-17 April 2011 (photo below left by Scott Terrill on 12 April; below right by Donna L. Dittmann on 17 April).



A second individual (2011-076) was in the vicinity of the TNC Grilletta Tract 16-17 April 2011 (photo below left by Donna L. Dittmann near "the boardwalk" 16 April; photo below right by David P. Muth on nearby Coulon Rigaud Lane, 17 April).



he LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of photographs can be showcased in the annual newsletter. Due to space limitations, photographs appearing in LBRC newsletters are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons and these are well-represented in this series of Green-tailed Towhees: 1) provide an image of the individual accepted at the meeting (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; 4) stress the importance of all photographs to the documentation process whether or not completely in focus (but species still recognizable) or tack sharp. A grainy or poorly exposed photo can still be just as useful as one that is beautifully composed and professional-appearing; and finally, 5) as a means to encourage observers to carry a camera because, with practice, most observers can produce fine images of birds. And remember, even if others are photographing the same bird, their photos may not come out, be lost, or you can capture some aspect of the bird not captured by others. And 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!

Photo showcase 5: Green-tailed Towhees galore!

 The number of **Green-tailed Towhees** discovered beginning Fall 2011 and throughout the following winter season was exceptional. Prior to this invasion, accepted Louisiana records stood at NINE. Here are but a portion of the records from that period thus far submitted and supported by photographs (that could be reviewed at the Annual Meeting). The first was discovered and photographed by Matt Conn (2011-080; photo at top) on 29 October 2011, just southwest of Patoutville sugar mill. Matt's bird could not be re-found, but soon thereafter one (2011-081) was photographed (immediate right) by Daniel F. Lane in Jefferson Davis Parish on 4 November 2011. This individual remained to at least 28 January 2012 along West Niblett Road near Thornwell. On its heels was one on 7 November 2011 (2011-082; far right) by Jay Huner at Elbow Slough WMA, Rapides Parish. Next was one (2011-083) on 12 November 2011 at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge (at right, photo by Jeffrey Trahan). Back in the southern rice country, Michael Seymour found another individual (2011-084) near Crowley on 30 November 2011 (photo far right). So far, five in two months!

During the Cameron Prairie-Sweet Lake CBC on 18 December 2011, two (2011-085) were photographed together at the SE end of Coastal Club Road by Phillip A. Wallace (right) and he also discovered another (2012-005) 21 January in Plaquemines Parish at Pointe a la Hache, photographed (far right) by Mary Mehaffey on 28 January. As winter progressed, more were discovered in woodlots/hedgerows, such as this one (2012-006) about 6 mi. E of Cameron, 22 January 2012 (right, photo by Dave Patton).

Amazingly, considering that this species can be quite secretive and often stays hidden in thickets, many of the individuals were well-photographed. This one (2012-007) on 5 February 2012 at Little Chenier, was more elusive as evidenced by Paul Conover's photo showing just its head (right). Another (2012-008) found by Conover NW of Welsh on 19 February 2012 was "adequately" photographed at that time. But, thanks to Jay Huner's subsequent spreading of bird seed along the road to attract the Lark Bunting (2012-010) also present there, the towhee became a very cooperative stakeout allowing better photo ops during the next week or two (e.g., below, next to Lark Bunting on 25 February by Justin Bosler). The majority of Greentailed reports were from SW LA, but one (2012-019) farther east on 19 February 2012 was a first for Tangipahoa Parish (photo right by Janine Robin) and was followed by St. Tammany Parish's first (2012-025) on 4 March 2012 (far right, photo by Mary Mehaffey).

Hopefully all the 2011-2012 Green-tailed Towhee records will be submitted to fully document this irruption.







2012-005







cont. from p. 9 Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana)

One adult male (2012-017) on 17 January 2012, *Jefferson*: Metairie; Joan Garvey (photos below).



Black-headed Grosbeak (Pheucticus melanocephalus)

One (2011-090) on 20 & 23 September 2011, Jefferson: River Ridge, 121 East Henfer Ave.; Craig Mineo (ph on p. 15). One immature male (2011-091) on 7 December 2011-20 February 2012, St. Tammany: Mandeville, 19170

2011-20 February 2012, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, 19170 Antenor Street; **Claire Thomas** (ph on p. 15) and Mary Mehaffey (ph).

One adult male (2012-011) on 13 February 2012, *St. Bernard*: Arabi, 829 Mehle Street; Bart Siegel (ph on p. 15).

Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)

One female (2012-018) on 10-13 January 2012, *West Feliciana*: St. Francisville, 12200 Star Hill Trace; **Karen Fay**



(ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph, one above right), Dave Patton (ph, one above left), B. Mac Myers III (ph).

Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum)

One female (2011-094) on 5 December 2011-27 February (Coney Barré *fide* SWC) 2012, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 8645 Gail Drive, residence of **Coney and Janie Barré** (videotape); Mary Mehaffey (ph), Dave Patton (ph), Justin Bosler, Kimberly Lanka (photos only, p. 15).

Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis)

One adult male (2011-095) from 30 April-15 May 2011, *Cameron*: Oak Grove, Oak Grove Sanctuary/Rutherford Motel Woods; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, below) and Steven W. Cardiff, Jay V. Huner (ph), and Paul E. Conover (ph).



The LBRC solicits additional information for any record accepted here so that each record's file is as complete as possible. All records reviewed by the LBRC are archived and housed at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

Allen's Hummingbirds

Although now exceeding the LBRC Review List threshold of averaging more than 4 records/year averaged over a 10 year period, the LBRC is awaiting submission of old banding records before voting to possibly remove Allen's Hummingbird from the Review List. The majority of Allen's records are submitted by banders or observers associated with banding operations, and this Meeting's records are of a similar nature.

First, a four-year old adult female (2011-057, C26869) was recaptured by Linda Beall in Mandeville on 11 December 2011. In-hand photo showing rectrix shapes and widths by Tom Trenchard (right).

Dave Patton submitted four records of birds he captured and photographed during the season, leading off with an immature male (2011-100) banded at the Drouant residence in Lafayette on 13 December 2011 (C06071, photo of tail at right).



2011-057

This was followed by an adult male (2011-101) 25 November 2011-24 February 2012 at Patton's Lafayette residence (banded C06062, photos below). His photo at the feeder was taken 15 February prior to its departure.



Another adult male (2012-024) was banded (C06191) on 28 February 2012 (photos below), also at his Lafayette residence.



Finally, he banded an immature male (2012-023) banded (C06097, photos below) on 14 January 2012, at the Gravois residence near New Iberia.



Photo showcase 6: Spotted Towhees through blackbirds

Five **Spotted Towhees** were accepted at the meeting, but these were only a fraction of those reported during fall-winter 2011-2012.



Three were from Cameron Parish and include the following: a female (2011-088) on 23 December 2011, in a coastal woodlot on 2400 block of Trosclair Road about 9 mi. E of Cameron; Paul E. Conover (photo, top left).



Another male (2011-089) on 16 December 2011, in northern Cameron Parish on Coto Plot Road south of Hwy. 14 and just E of Lacassine Bayou, photographed by Walker Wilson (left, second from top).



And, back closer to the coast, this female (2012-015; next to female Eastern Towhee) at Little Chenier on 5 February 2012 (left middle photo by Paul E. Conover).



Two were from northern Louisiana localities: this male (2012-012) on 11 January 2012 in Union Parish at the Meridian Church, west of Marion, photographed by Stephen Pagans (left, second from bottom), and another male (2012-013) on 14 January 2012 in Webster Parish at the Yellow Pine Road Christian Church near Sibley, photographed by James L. Ingold (bottom left).



There were three **Black-headed Grosbeaks** accepted - all were males found visiting feeders.

The first (2011-090), an immature, was fairly early on 20 & 23 September 2011 at River Ridge, Jefferson Parish (photo by Craig Mineo, right).

Another immature (2011-091) was at Mandeville, *St. Tammany* 7 December 2011-20 February 2012 (photo at right by Claire Thomas, here on 20 February).

An adult male (2012-011) was at Arabi, *St. Bernard* 13 February 2012 (photo below by Bart Siegel).

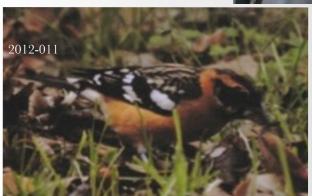
Two male and one female **Cassin's Sparrows** (2011-086) present from 1 May-1
June 2011 at Cane's Landing on the Red River,
Bossier Parish, represented just the second state
record (photos below by John P. Sevenair).



This female Scott's Oriole (2011-094) was hosted by Coney (ph) and Janie Barré at their Baton Rouge residence 5 December 2011-27 February 2012 (photo by Kimberly Lanka from 21 February 2012).







Special thanks to James M. Bishop and all current LBRC Members who scoured this issue for errors as well as suggested many improvements.

Corrigenda: because mistakes sometimes defy detection.
Please, if you spot any errors in this report contact
Donna L. Dittmann at ddittma@lsu.edu Thank you..

Molt terminology used herein follows traditional Humphrey & Parkes (1959).

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