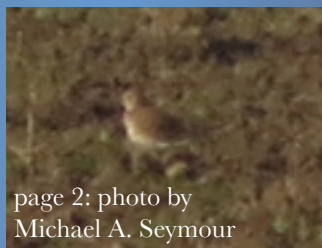


NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
**Annual Meeting Report 2013**

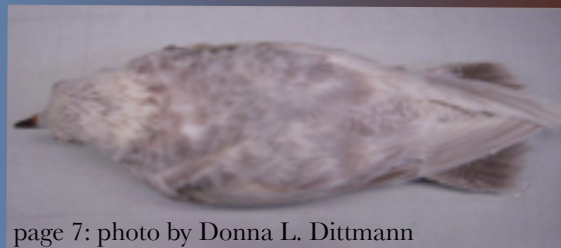
Annual Report, May 1, 2013



page 11: photo by Terry Davis



page 2: photo by  
Michael A. Seymour



page 7: photo by Donna L. Dittmann

## Five species added to the State List



page 4: photo by Dan O'Malley



page 11: photo by Terry Davis

## Annual Meeting: 16 March 2013

### Synopsis of the 2013 LBRC Annual Meeting

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

The LBRC's 2013 Annual Meeting was held on 16 March at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

All Voting Members were in attendance: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair), Paul E. Conover, John Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), James L. Ingold, Erik I.

Johnson, Nancy L. Newfield, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Phillip A. Wallace.

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

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

and, after a break for lunch, was relocated to St. Gabriel, where it reconvened at 2:00 PM and adjourned at 4:05 PM.

### Record Review

Members reviewed 79 First Circulation records. Records included on the agenda were chosen at the discretion of the Secretary, and mainly involved what she believed were well-documented, relatively non-controversial occurrences supported by photographic or specimen evidence most

continues bottom of next page

## Louisiana's First Record of

### Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

Staying just a little too far for high-quality telephoto images, Louisiana's first Mountain Plover (2012-038) was nevertheless adequately documented with these digiscoped photos. First found early in the morning of 14 December 2012 (Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC) by Michael Seymour, Beau Gregory, and Sam Holcomb, the bird flushed and flew out of sight before it could be documented. The adjacent CBC parties were alerted about the plover and that it was associated with Black-bellied Plovers and may have headed their way. Amazingly it was soon re-found by Mike Musumeche and Jay Huner as it foraged with Black-bellied Plovers and Killdeer on the back side of a mostly dirt field. Observers from adjacent parties (Steve Cardiff, Donna Dittmann, Paul Conover, David Muth, Phillip Wallace) were able to make it over to help document the sighting. The plover lingered at the second location for a couple of hours but could not be located later in the day by other observers chasing the bird.

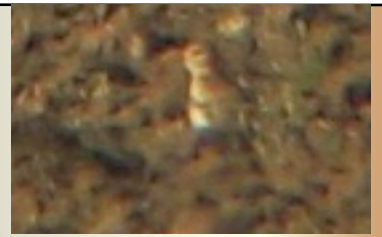


photo by Donna L. Dittmann



photo by Paul E. Conover



photo by Phillip A. Wallace



photo by Michael A. Seymour

## Annual Meeting 2013 - continued from page 1

easily reviewed in a meeting format and with a high probability of acceptance (as outlined by the LBRC Bylaws; see <http://losbird.org/lbrc/bylaws.htm> for online copy). The majority of these records were chosen from records posted at the online LBRC "pending records" pages, primarily page 7 <http://losbird.org/lbrc/viewreport.html>.

For those records included in an Annual Meeting First Circulation, Member votes are anonymous and without comment, and for a record to be accepted all Members must vote to accept. If a record vote is not unanimous or there appears to be some problem with a record, then that record will begin a traditional First Circulation via "e-Round." Occasionally, a record is not accepted during a Meeting simply because one or more Members prefer to see other Member comments or make comments during a normal circulation. In the case of one record, part of the documentation was missing from its file.

Seventy-two of the 79 First Circulation records were accepted at the Meeting (see below). Highlights included the first accepted Louisiana

occurrences of Pacific Loon, Mountain Plover, Iceland Gull, Razorbill, and Dusky-capped Flycatcher. The seven records that did not receive a unanimous accept vote will circulate in e-Round 144.

### Other LBRC Business:

#### Fourth Circulation record Discussion and Resolution

Five Fourth Circulation records were discussed and resolved at this Meeting and these are reported at the end of the newsletter with other records resolved in recent e-Rounds.

### Member Elections

Terms of two voting Members concluded at the Spring 2013 Meeting: Paul E. Conover (Lafayette) and Phillip A. Wallace (New Orleans). Both were re-nominated and re-elected for another four-year term. Officers Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary) and Steven W. Cardiff (Chair) were also each re-elected for new one-year terms.

## Changes to the Review List

At the request of Paul Conover, Members discussed review list criteria, specifically whether to lower the threshold to less than the current four per year average. 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.*

Conover suggested considering decreasing the per year average for inclusion on the Review List to two records per year. His request was prompted in part by the increase in records of a few species during the past few years. A compromise of three/year was also suggested and discussed, as well as a differential approach soliciting documentation by age/sex to better scrutinize more regular but difficult-to-identify species. However, adoption of either of these changes could potentially skew the overall picture of a species' occurrence. Following discussion, Members reached a consensus that the current system is designed with enough flexibility to address and manage cases of rapidly changing status of species on the Review List. Members agreed that a better approach is to more aggressively remove species from the Review List when they meet the current threshold for removal. Through the years, the LBRC retained species that had exceeded the threshold due to the difficulty of their identification (e.g., Lesser Black-backed Gull, finally removed in 1996). The LBRC realizes that it cannot indefinitely "police" difficult-to-identify species that have otherwise proven to be regular in occurrence. The LBRC has also retained species for other reasons such as to prompt submission of outstanding older records. Another issue is geographic coverage - status can be difficult to assess for species that occur in areas that are difficult to access (e.g., pelagics). Members agreed that the benchmark of  $\leq 40$  records/10 years is justifiable in order to interpret long-term trends versus possible short-term phenomena (e.g., the 2011-2012 Green-tailed Towhee invasion).



Hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal at Lacassine NWR on 19 February 2011. Photo by Donna L. Dittmann.

## Additions to the Review List

Since publication of the LBRC 2012 Annual Report, the Review List has increased in number by virtue of addition of five new species to the State List: Pacific Loon, Mountain Plover, Iceland Gull, Razorbill, and Dusky-capped Flycatcher.



LBRC 2012-037  
photo by Dave Patton  
See also page 8.

## Deletions from the Review List

Donna Dittmann proposed to remove Cinnamon Teal, Parasitic Jaeger (photo above), Allen's Hummingbird, and Western Tanager from the Review List. These species exceed or are on the verge of exceeding 4/year/10 year threshold. Following a discussion of records currently submitted, reviewed, and accepted, Members voted whether to remove each species. Although Review List criteria are not absolute (and thus more of a guideline), in general, the LBRC prefers to accumulate a sufficient number of accepted records prior to a species' removal from the Review List regardless of annual status. For species with complex identification issues, accumulated records may well exceed 40 over a 10 year period. The following species were removed from the Review List: Parasitic Jaeger, Allen's Hummingbird, and Western Tanager. The LBRC encourages submission of records of these species from prior to the removal date. Cinnamon Teal was retained on the Review List. This species has not exceeded the removal threshold and, although identification is straightforward for males, females are problematic and hybrids are known to occur (e.g., see photos left). The LBRC will continue to monitor a number of other species ([as outlined in the previous newsletter](#)) approaching the removal threshold.

The LBRC continues to emphasize the need to submit documentation for Review List species even though they may appear to be more regular and/or approach Review List threshold for removal.

The State List now stands at 479 species and there are 153 species on the Review List.



## Louisiana's First Record of Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

Unlike the Mountain Plover that stayed too distant for good photographs, this Razorbill (2013-011) was more obliging when it appeared at a gull flock chummed to attract jaegers to Dave Patton's boat (aptly named *The Jaeger*). Also on board that day (left to right) were Dan O'Malley (who first spotted the alcid), Erik I. Johnson, and B. Mac Myers III (shown in photo below all snapping photos of this very cooperative individual). Razorbills made an unprecedented movement south during winter 2012-2013, with many seen along the South Atlantic Coast and some moving west around the Florida Peninsula into the Gulf of Mexico. With earlier sightings as close as Alabama, it seemed just a matter of time for one to reach Louisiana; everyone anticipated this species to be found off Louisiana, but only this boat crew was lucky enough to see one.

Like the Mountain Plover, this Razorbill could not be relocated in the same area the next day or thereafter.



Photos: Dave Patton

## 2013 Annual Report by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee

Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary

format follows that of LBRC reports previously published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*

see: [http://losbird.org/jlo/jlo\\_v8.pdf](http://losbird.org/jlo/jlo_v8.pdf)

The LBRC is shifting publication of its Reports from the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* to the LBRC Newsletter. The last report that will appear in the *JLO* will be the large Eleventh Report currently in preparation. Starting with this 2013 LBRC Newsletter, all records resolved at the annual meeting as well as those resolved during the year in e-Rounds will appear in an *Annual Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee*. Changing to this publication method should provide a more timely release of records reviewed by the LBRC. The records reported here include 72 First Circulation records accepted during the LBRC 2013 Annual Meeting. These records are shown in brown font to distinguish them from records that circulated in traditional rounds. An additional 64 records (black font) were resolved in e-Rounds E-139, E-140, E-141, and E-142 and during Fourth Circulation Discussion Rounds at the 2012 and 2013 LBRC Annual Meetings. Of records reported here, there is a 72% acceptance rate, perhaps lower than would be predicted considering the increasingly superior documentation submitted by observers in recent years [thanks in part to the digital revolution - nearly everyone now carries a digital camera or audio-recording equipment and is better prepared to document their rare finds]. The lower acceptance rate is partly the result of inclusion of many "incomplete" older records for which anticipated additional reports were never received. As the Committee slowly catches up on a backlog of older records, the acceptance percentage should dramatically rebound.

Records are organized in taxonomic order as per the *AOU Checklist of North American Birds*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition through the 53<sup>rd</sup> Supplement: <http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>. Molt terminology follows Humphrey and Parkes (1959): <http://sora.unm.edu/node/20715>

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The LBRC thanks all who contributed to records included in this report, regardless of whether records are considered accepted or unaccepted. The name of submitting observer(s) follows all accepted records. As per LBRC policy, the submitting observer is not listed for records that are considered unacceptable. If photographic (ph), specimen (LSUMZ), or autopsy (initials and prep number) documentation is submitted as part of the record, then that abbreviation follows the observer's name. If the original discoverer submitted a report, then his/her name is boldfaced. If the discoverer did not submit a report and their identity is known, then it is mentioned at the end of the record entry. The LBRC record archives, as well as all specimens reported herein, are housed at the LSU Museum of Natural Science. The LBRC requests additional reports or documentation for any record resolved here as well as corrections to these records. A corrigendum will appear in the next Annual Report.

In addition to observers who are specifically acknowledged for accepted records, we also want to express our gratitude to those who submitted records and are not acknowledged below and to outside reviewers who provided knowledge or insights that assisted the LBRC with record reviews: James W. Beck, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Roger J. Breedlove, Paul E. Conover, Dennis K. Demcheck, Danny M. Dobbs, Jonathan L. Dunn, Chris Dorgan, Thomas Finnie, John Fowler, Hubert Hervey, Steve N. G. Howell, Jay V. Huner, Alvaro Jaramillo, Erik I. Johnson, Jason A. Jones, Joseph P. Kleiman, Charles E. Lyon, Bruce Mactavish, Mary Mehaffey, Patrick Damas Moresi, Joseph P. Morlan, Michael J. Musumeche, B. Mac Myers III, Kim Martin Nehrbass, Glenn Ousset, Dick Prentki, Peter Pyle, Kay Radlauer, Robert R. Reid, Jr., A. L. Roshto, Rosemary Seidler, Curtis C. Sorrells, Richard Temple, Timmy Vincent, Phillip A. Wallace, and Melvin Weber.

Abbreviations used: BRAS (=Baton Rouge Audubon Society), CBC (=Christmas Bird Count), Hwy. (=Highway), Rd. (=Road), Dr. (=Drive), Blvd. (=Boulevard), St. (=Street), Ln. (=Land), mi. (=miles), NWR (=National Wildlife Refuge), TNC (=The Nature Conservancy); compass directions are abbreviated and capitalized (e.g., W = west).

## 12th Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee

### ACCEPTED RECORDS

IDENTIFICATION AND NATURAL ORIGIN WAS ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING 98 RECORDS:

#### **Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)**

One male (2011-105) from 19-20 November 2011, *Vermilion*: W. Bell Rd., Vincent Mini-Refuge area, approximately 4 mi. N Kaplan; **Erik I. Johnson** and Devin Bosler (ph p. 6).

One male (2012-036) from 21 December 2012-6 January 2013, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, Pintail Loop; Thomas Finnie (ph, p. 6) and Dan O'Malley (ph).

#### **White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)**

Four (2011-044) on 15 March 2011, *Cameron*: 1 mi. offshore from Cameron; Dave Patton (ph, p. 6). The Committee only accepted four of the five individuals reported because there was no actual description of the fifth individual.

One male (2012-068) from 6-22 April 2012; *Cameron*: Holly Beach to near BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **Paul E. Conover** (ph, p. 6) and Jay V. Huner.

One female (2012-070) on 9 April 2012, *Cameron*: 2 mi. W of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 6) and Jay V. Huner.

#### **Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)**

One female joined by two males (2012-087) from 8 April-25 May 2012, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty; Michael J. Musumeche (ph p. 6), Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 6), Paul E. Conover (ph), Phillip A. Wallace, Jay V. Huner, Thomas Finnie (ph), Devin Bosler (ph), and Danny Dobbs (card only). This cluster of reports may be re-evaluated and split into multiple records.

#### **Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

One in basic plumage (2012-046) on 21 and 23 November 2012, *Caddo*: Shreveport, Cross Lake near S side equidistant between Bird Island and Buzzard Island; Terry Davis (ph, cover, see also p. 11). This is the first accepted Louisiana occurrence.

#### **Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

Two (2013-002) from 26-27 January 2013, *Caddo*: Shreveport, E end Cross Lake; Stephen Pagans and Charles Lyon (ph only, p. 10).

#### **Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)**

One (2012-060) on 3 June 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 15 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River, between N 28.7764539°, W 89.110708° and N 28.79069°, W 89.909656°; **Donna L. Dittmann** (ph, p. 10) and Steven W. Cardiff, and John P. Sevenair (ph).

**Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)**

One light morph immature (2012-044) on 23 November 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: junction of A & D Abshire Rd. and Lyons Rd., 2.5 mi. W of Lake Arthur; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 10).

**Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)**

One light morph immature (1999-008) from 9 January-14 March 1999, *Natchitoches*: W of I-49 just past the Powhatan exit; Joseph P. Kleiman, Rosemary Seidler, and Charles Lyon (ph only, p. 10). See *NAB* 53:2, p. 174.

One light morph immature (2012-043) from 28 November 2012-17 March 2013, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach from Belle Pass to 1 mi. E; Dave Patton (ph, p. 10) and Erik I. Johnson (ph). A Rough-legged Hawk was reported from this general area approximately two weeks earlier by Don Norman.

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## Photo showcase I: Ducks



2011-105

Although teetering on the threshold for removal from the Review List, this report only includes two records of Cinnamon Teal, both males.

Left, this male (2011-105) was digiscoped near the former Vincent Mini-Refuge by Devin Bosler on 20 November 2011. Right male (2012-036) was photographed at Cameron Prairie NWR by Thomas Finnie on 4 January 2013.



2012-036



2011-044

Left photo (inset enlargement better shows), four White-winged Scoters (2011-044) photographed about 1 mi. offshore from Cameron by Dave Patton on 15 March 2011. Bottom right, male (2012-068) photographed by Paul E. Conover along Holly Beach on 10 April 2012. With a little patience Paul was able to obtain spread wing shots for not only this individual but another female (2012-070) just west of Holly Beach on 9 April 2012 (left two photos below).



2012-070



2012-068

One of up to three present (2012-087), this female Long-tailed Duck (below left) was photographed at the Cameron jetties



by Michael J. Musumeche on 8 April 2012, and possibly the same individual was photographed (right) at East Jetty by Erik I. Johnson on 15 April 2012.





**Crested Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*)**

One adult (1997-08) on 22 February 1997, *Cameron*: Lacassine NWR Pool Unit, short road to the right after entering; Rosemary Seidler. Crested Caracara was removed from the Review List on 8 September 2007.

**Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)**

One (2012-038) on 14 December 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: initially at corner of Hwy. 380 X Lyons Rd. and then later relocated S of there near Lyons Rd. X Hwy. 14 (W of Lake Arthur); **Michael A. Seymour** (ph, cover, p. 2), Donna L. Dittmann (ph., p. 2) and Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 2), Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 2). This represents the first state record.

**Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)**

One in juvenal plumage (1997-33) on 24 October 1997, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; **Phillip A. Wallace**, B. Mac Myers III, and Peter A. Yaukey.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*) St.**

One in third basic plumage (2013-004) from 19 January-28 April 2013, *Cameron*: Cameron, at or just offshore of mouth Calcasieu River; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 10), Dave Patton (ph), and Erik I. Johnson (ph only).

**Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)**

One female in first basic plumage molting to first alternate plumage (1994-053) on 27 April 1994, *Cameron*: 1 mi. E of Holly Beach; Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 4161, ph cover and below) and Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 160608). This represents the first state record. See discussion below.

**Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)**

One (2012-061) from 12 April-1 June 2012, *Cameron*: vicinity of Calcasieu River jetties [=mouth Calcasieu River]; Thomas Finnie (ph), Dave Patton (ph, p. 10). This and 2012-085 may involve the same individual.

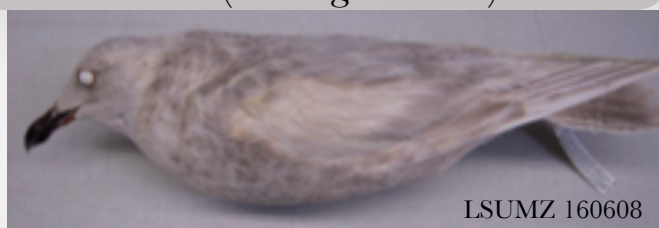
One (2012-085) on 28 April 2012, *Cameron*: W of Holly Beach on Hwy. 27 near mile marker 45; Jeff Trahan (ph, p. 10), Jane Patterson (ph only), and Melvin Weber (ph only). This and 2012-061 may involve the same individual.

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## Louisiana's First Record of Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)

This gull (1994-053, LSUMZ 160608) was originally collected as a possible Thayer's Gull but the record was never submitted to the LBRC. In 2007, at the request of Donna Dittmann, Sarah Sonsthagen analyzed DNA extracted from tissues of this and several other "mystery gull" specimens. At the time Sonsthagen and collaborators were beginning two related projects: find genetic markers to identify gull species from forensic samples obtained from aircraft strikes, and, build a phylogeny of Arctic large gull species (Sonsthagen et al. 2012).

Sonsthagen's analyses assigned a putative population of origin along with the probability of that assignment estimated in NLC 1.0 (Tophcy et al. 2004) with 12 microsatellite loci, 6 autosomal nuclear introns, and mtDNA control region domain 1. Data were run using all available loci and a subset of loci identified by GAFS 1.1 (Tophcy et al. 2004) to be informative in individual identification. Nuclear intron data were analyzed using reconstructed haplotypes inferred by PHASE 2.1.1 (Stephens and Donnelly 2001) and unlinked polymorphic sites (SNP). Her analyses revealed this individual was clearly most similar to representative samples of Kumlien's Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*) from Baffin



Island: allelic probability 0.997, SNP probability 0.997). Considering relative concordance of plumage characters and genetic analysis, this individual was accepted as Louisiana's first Iceland Gull.

Nevertheless, records and status of Iceland and Thayer's gulls remain problematic due to their unsettled taxonomy and plumage variability. Other Louisiana records of Thayer's and Iceland gulls, including those also examined by Sonsthagen, are pending or remain to be circulated/ resolved.

Sonsthagen, S., R. T. Chesser, D. A. Bell, & C. J. Dove (2012). Hybridization among white-headed gulls (*Larus* spp.) obscures genetic legacy of the Pleistocene. *Ecology and Evolution* 2(6):1278-1295.

Stephens, M. & P. Donnelly (2003). A comparison of Bayesian methods for haplotype reconstruction from population genotype data. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 73:1162-1169.

Tophcy, A., K. Scribner, & W. Punch (2004). Accuracy-driven loci selection and assignment of individuals. *Molecular Ecology Notes* 4: 798-800.

**Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)**

One adult in basic plumage (1997-05) on 25 January 1997, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle; B. Mac Myers III and Phillip A. Wallace. Reportedly found by Gay Gomez.

One adult (2012-067) on 18 March 2012, *Jefferson*: Elmer's Island; Phillip A. Wallace and Robert D. Purrington (ph only, p. 10).

**Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)**

One subadult (2012-075) on 3 June 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: ca 45 mi. SSE of South Pass Mississippi River, N 28.37973°, W 88.83377°; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff.

One immature (2012-076) on 14 August 2012, *Gulf of Mexico*: 43.9 mi. SW of South Pass Mississippi River, N 28.41905°, W 89.44571°; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Two (2012-037) on 21 December 2012, *Cameron*: 4 mi. offshore of Calcasieu River jetties; **Dave Patton** (ph, p. 3 and p. 12) and Thomas Finnie (ph only).

**Razorbill (*Alca torda*)**

One in first winter plumage (2013-011) on 14 February 2013, *Cameron*: Cameron, just E of end of East Jetty [=mouth Calcasieu River]; **Dan O'Malley** (ph, cover), Dave Patton (ph, p. 4), Erik I. Johnson (ph), and B. Mac Myers III (ph at right). This represents a first state record (see p. 4).

**Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)**

One (2012-074) on 22 April 2012, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 210 Lyons St.; Chester Young (ph, p. 12).

**Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)**

One (2010-107) on 20 October 2010, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Grand Isle State Park; Justin Hite.

One (2012-073) on 12 May 2012, *Cameron*: ½ mi. W of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 12).

One (2013-007) on 6 January 2013, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW of Johnson Bayou School; Dan O'Malley (ph, right). Presumably the same individual returning for second winter at the same site.

**Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)**

One (1997-78) brought to rehabilitation unit during fall-early winter 1997, vicinity of Youngsville, *Lafayette*. Photographed (p. 12) at rehabilitation unit by Paul E. Conover in mid-December 1997. The fate of this owl is not known.

**Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypse anna*)**

One female (1997-76) from 22-25 December 1997 and 3 January 1998, *St. John the Baptist*: LaPlace, 1409 Glendale St., residence of Gene Street; Ronald J. Stein.

One female (2011-56) on 15 December 2011, *Iberville*: 4 mi. N of St. Gabriel, 435 Pecan Dr.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 12) and Steven W. Cardiff (ph); and presumably the same bird from 24 December 2011-3 February 2012 at nearby 545 Pecan Dr.; J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 12) and J. V. Huner (ph only).

One female (2012-002) on 20 January 2012, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, Tulip St.; Kim Welsh (ph only, p. 12) and Jeff W. Harris.

**Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*)**

One immature male (1997-26) from 21 November-24 December 1997, *St. John the Baptist*: LaPlace, 1409 Glendale St., residence of Gene Street; Ronald J. Stein. Calliope Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 7 September 2007.



2013-011



2013-007



**Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)**

One immature male (1997-02) on 5 January 1997, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, Stanford Dr.; residence of Carol Foil; Nancy L. Newfield (banded, T79952). Broad-tailed Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 2 September 2002.

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

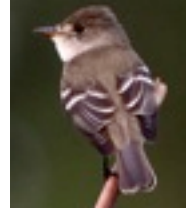
One adult male (2012-083) from 13 December 2012-5 February 2013, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 122 Memory Ln.; Dave Patton (ph, p. 12). Banded (C06062) on 4 Dec 2011, this individual had returned for its second winter (LBRC 2011-101).

One adult male (2012-084) on 13 December 2012 and 23 January 2013, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, residence of Danny Dobbs; Dave Patton (ph p. 12, banded C06276 on 13 December 2012).

One adult female (2013-017) from 30 January-21 February 2013, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, Belle Rive Townhomes; Dave Patton (ph p. 12, banded C06302 on 30 January 2013).

One adult male (2013-012) on 19 and 22 February 2013, *St. Landry*: Sunset, residence of June Walker; Dave Patton (ph).

One immature male nearly in adult plumage (2013-016) on 21 and 28 February 2013, *Ascension*: Prairieville, 38351 Welsh Dr.; N 30.336275°, W 90.971174° (residence of Butch & Shirley Drewes); Nancy L. Newfield (banded P51869 on 28 February 2013) and Kevin Morgan (ph only, p. 12).



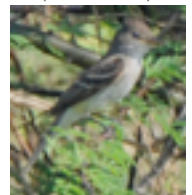
(2011-059)

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

One female (2013-008) on 2 and 26 January 2013, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, Antenor St.; Claire Thomas (ph, p. 12).

**Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)**

One singing (2011-059) on 28 May 2011, *Caddo*: Bossier City, Cane's Landing on Red River, N 32.52581°, W 93.74529°; Jeff Trahan (ph, top right).



(2012-080)

One (2012-080) on 10 September 2012, *Lafourche*: near Port Fourchon; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, right) and **Steven W. Cardiff**.

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

One (2012-053) on 19 September 2012 and presumably the same individual on 21 October 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: Lyons Rd., from about 0.4 mi. S of Ward Line Rd. and S to Guidry Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-056) on 27 September 2012, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Angela Trahan and Molly Richard (ph only, p. 13).

One (2012-057) on 30 September 2012, *Cameron*: 2 mi. E of Willow Island, approximately 8.5 mi. E of Cameron; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-048) from 11-27 November 2012, *Plaquemines*: Diamond, Diamond Recreation Area; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-086) on 16 December 2012, *Cameron*: 1 mi. E of Hwy. 384 and intersection with southern terminus of Welch Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff. Same location where 3 (2011-065) were found on 18 December 2011.

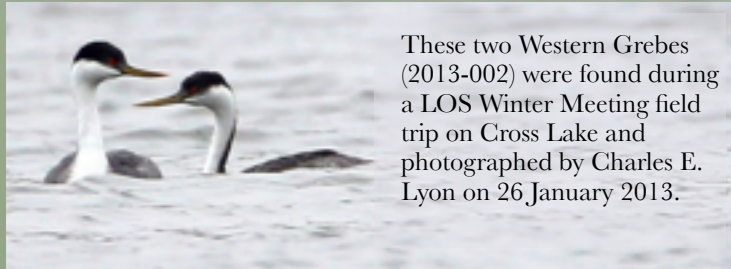
One (2012-027) on 16 and 31 December 2012, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, Tom Stegal Rd., between Corbina & Tom Hebert roads; Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 13) and Robby J. Bacon (ph).

One (2012-035) from 22 December 2012-12 January 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, at end of Intracoastal Dr.; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-089) from 22 December 2012-12 January 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR on Irish Bayou levee running E of Hwy. 11, at pumping station; **Robert D. Purrington** and Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 13). Reportedly originally found by Robert D. Purrington and Don Norman on the New Orleans CBC.

One (2012-034) from 23 December 2012-29 March 2013, *Calcasieu*: on NW quadrant of intersection of Hwy. 14 and Harris Rd., ca. 2 mi. W of Bell City; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13). (apparent returnee from winter 2011-2012, but that record not yet reviewed).

## Photo showcase 2: Grebes through gulls



These two Western Grebes (2013-002) were found during a LOS Winter Meeting field trip on Cross Lake and photographed by Charles E. Lyon on 26 January 2013.



2012-060

Photographed by Donna L. Dittmann, this Cory's Shearwater (2012-060) was over green water and only about 15 mi. S of South Pass of the Mississippi River on 3 June 2012.

This light morph immature Ferruginous Hawk (2012-044) photographed (below) by Paul E. Conover was W of Lake Arthur on 23 November 2012.



2012-044



1999-008



2012-043

Rosemary Seidler compiled information to submit this "older record" of a light morph immature Rough-legged Hawk (1999-008) from 1999. She was able to obtain two photographs from Charles E. Lyon (middle) that were taken during this bird's long stay near Powhatan exit off I-49. More recently, Dave Patton obtained images (right two) of a light morph immature (2012-043) at Fourchon Beach on 28 November 2012.



2013-004



2012-085

Dubbed "Mr. Popcorn," this third basic plumage California Gull (2013-004) was photographed (right) by Paul E. Conover just off the mouth of the Calcasieu River on 19 January 2012. This bird really did like popcorn chum.



2012-061

A Glaucous Gull (2012-085) photographed by Jeff Trahan along Hwy. 27 W of Holly Beach (opposite top left) on 28 April 2012, may be the same individual (2012-061) photographed (lower left) by Dave Patton farther E at the Cameron jetty on 1 June 2012.

This photo (right) by Robert D. Purrington shows the primary tip pattern of the large white terminal spot on primary ten characteristic of an adult Great Black-backed Gull. This gull (2012-067) was documented at Elmer's Island on 18 March 2012.



2012-067



## Louisiana's First Record of Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

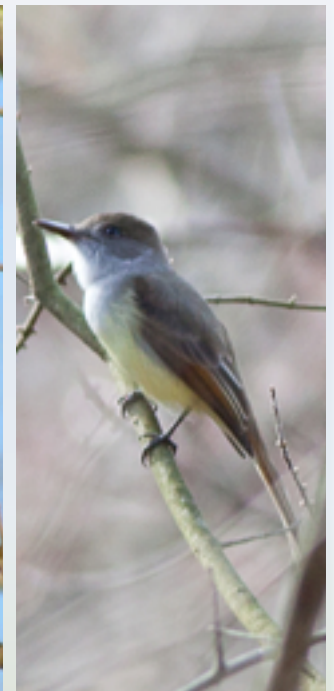
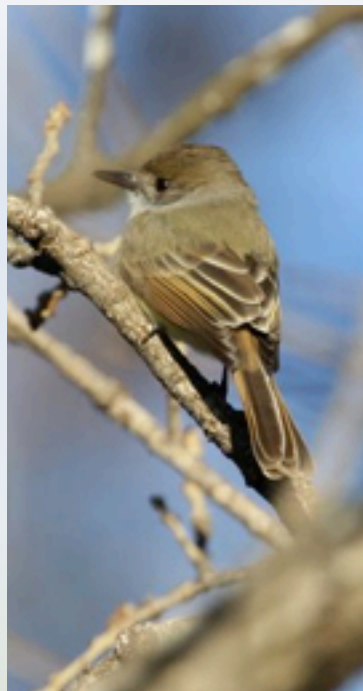
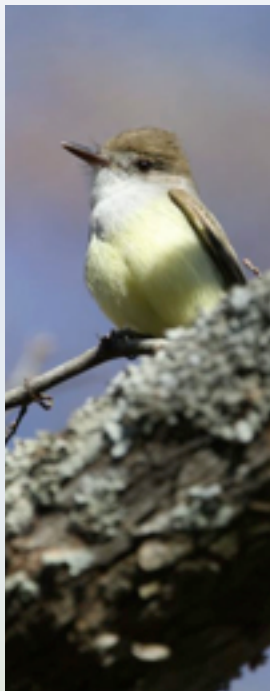
Found during a boating excursion on Cross Lake, this Pacific Loon (2012-046) was photographed on 21 November 2012 by Terry Davis. Another photo by Terry the same day is on the cover. This winter-plumaged individual was re-found two days later, also during a boat search but, unfortunately, not subsequently. This is the first record accepted for Louisiana. Another record from winter season 2011-2012 is currently in circulation.



## Two additions to the State List from northern Louisiana

### Louisiana's First Record of Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Observed the same day as the Pacific Loon (above) and initially believed to be one of two Ash-throated Flycatchers present, Terry Davis writes: “*WHO in their right minds would've thought that a Dusky-capped Flycatcher would be present in the exact same tree...*” Fortunately the bird vocalized: “*At about the time that the definite Ash-throated was being observed in the baldcypress, the Dusky-capped was also then plainly heard giving its distinct, mournful, descending "wheer" call nearby and its identity was suspected.*” Photos below: (left two) by Charles E. Lyon on 21 November 2012, Ronnie Maum (next) on 15 December 2012, and Jonathan Carpenter (right) on 24 December 2012. Audio files by Terry Davis are also part of this record's (2012-045) documentation.



## Photo showcase 4: Jaegers through hummingbirds



2012-075

These Parasitic Jaegers were both photographed offshore by Donna L. Dittmann. The subadult (2012-075) was about 45 mi. SSE of South Pass in green water on 3 June 2012 (left); the immature (2012-076) was 43.9 mi. SW of South Pass over blue-green water on 14 August 2012 (right). Photographs helped confirm identity of these less-than-cooperative fly-by individuals.



2012-076

One of two (2012-037) more cooperative Parasitics (another on p. 3) photographed (right) by Dave Patton 4 mi. offshore of Calcasieu River jetties on 21 December 2012.

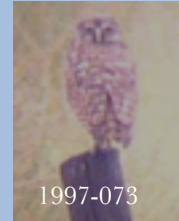


2013-037

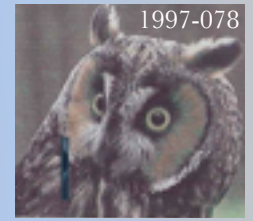


2012-074

A fabulous feeder bird (left), this one-day-wonder Band-tailed Pigeon (2012-074) was photographed by Chester Young in his Lafayette yard on 22 April 2012.



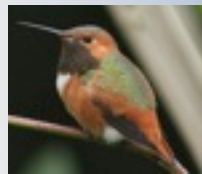
1997-073



1997-078

Paul E. Conover photographed both owls above. The Long-eared Owl (1997-078) was a patient at a rehabilitation center after it was picked up near Youngsville fall/winter 1997, and the Burrowing Owl (2012-073) was along Holly Beach on 12 May 2012.

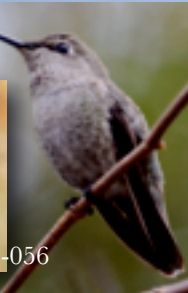
The majority of Allen's Hummingbirds are reported by banders, including all five records accepted here. Dave Patton documented four: an adult male (2012-083) photographed on 2 February 2013 (top right) that returned to his Lafayette yard for a second winter; two others also in Lafayette, an adult male (2012-084) banded (right) on 13 December 2012, and an adult female (2013-017) banded 13 December 2012 (tail feathers right shown next to a female Rufous); and lastly, an adult male (2013-012) photographed on 19 February 2013 at nearby Sunset. Nancy L. Newfield banded and collected feathers (center right) from an immature male (2013-016) in a Prairieville yard on 21 February 2013 (photos by Kevin Morgan).



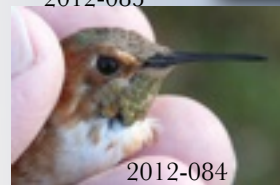
2012-083



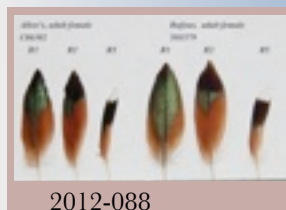
2011-056



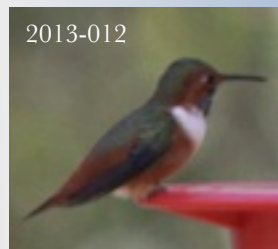
2012-002



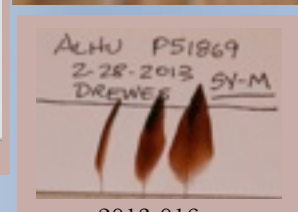
2012-084



2012-088



2013-012



2013-016

Two Anna's Hummingbird records include this female (2011-056) first found near St. Gabriel at 435 Pecan Dr. (small photo middle inset Donna L. Dittmann) on 15 December 2011, then presumably relocated to nearby 545 Pecan Dr. where better photographed by J. V. Remsen (left) on 24 December 2011. Later in the season another female (2012-002) was photographed by Kim Welsh (left) in a Baton Rouge yard on 20 January 2012.



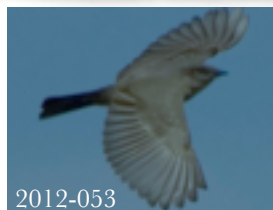
Remaining one of our rarer winter hummingbird visitors, this female BRD.-billed Hummingbird (2013-008) was photographed by Claire Thomas in her Mandeville yard on 2 January 2013.



The LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of photographs submitted can be showcased in the annual newsletter and report. Due to space limitations, photographs appearing in LBRC newsletters are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons and these are well-represented here: 1) provide an image of the individuals accepted (whether by the person who found the bird, a photo taken within the record's date range of occurrence, or from the last day the bird was observed); 2) illustrate the importance of photographic documentation; 3) show the range of photographic images submitted to the LBRC for documentation; 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 often be just as useful as one that is beautifully composed and professional-appearing; and finally, 5) as a means to encourage observers to carry a camera because, with practice, most observers can produce fine images of birds. And remember, even if others are photographing the same bird, their photos may not come out, be lost, or you can capture some aspect of the bird not captured by others. 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 !

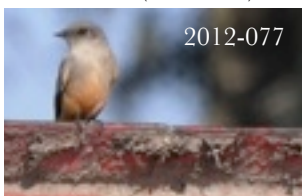
## Photo showcase 5: Say's Phoebe!



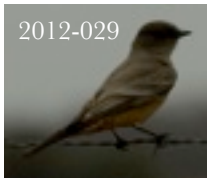
2012-053



2012-034



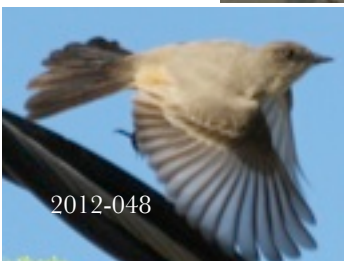
2012-077



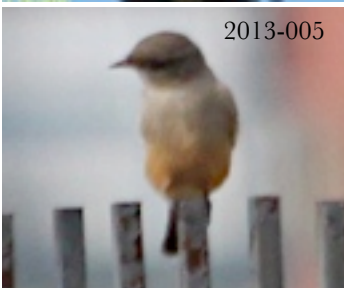
2012-029



2013-001



2012-048



2013-005



2012-089

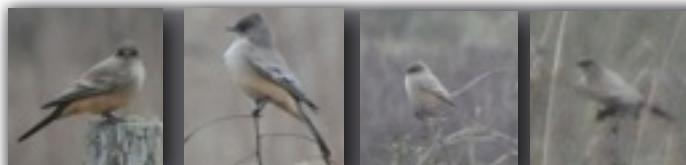
Say's Phoebe made another big showing fall-winter 2012-2013 and, although some likely represented returning individuals such as one (2012-053) on Lyons Rd. on 21 October 2012, another (2012-034) near Bell City on 23 December 2012 (both left and photographed by Paul E. Conover), and one (2012-086) photographed (collage below from report submitted by Donna L. Dittmann) on Lac-Thorn CBC 16 December 2012. However,

where two had been on the White Lake CBC the previous year, in the same area this season *there were four* (2012-078) - plus a new individual found at a different site (2012-077; photos of all 5 individuals

below by Donna L. Dittmann. Other new birds include one (2012-029) a few miles NNE of



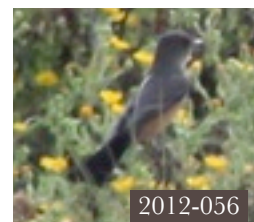
2012-086



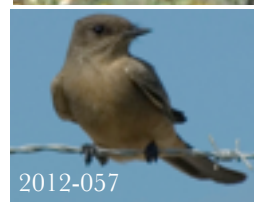
2012-078

Lacassine on 31 December 2012, and one (2013-001) near Holmwood on 27 January 2013 (photos below by Paul E. Conover, left). Molly Richard photographed (below right) one (2012-056) at Rutherford Beach on 27 September 2012. Paul E. Conover photographed (center right)

either the same or perhaps a different individual (2012-057) a couple days later a few miles away on 30 September 2012. From the Lake Charles area, Erik I. Johnson photographed (lower right) one (2012-027) on 16 December 2012, and Robby Bacon photographed (bottom right) one (2012-028) on 31 December 2012. From southeastern Louisiana, three(!) were in the Greater New Orleans area, all photographed here by Phillip A. Wallace (2013-005) on 12 January 2013, (2012-035) on 22 December 2012, and (2012-089) on 12 January 2013. Farthest south was one (2012-048) photographed by Phillip A. Wallace at Diamond on 25 November 2012.



2012-056



2012-057



2012-027



2012-028



2012-035



**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) -cont.**

One (2012-077) on 27 December 2012, *Vermilion*: N end of Doc Rd. (Isle Pevley), W of Forked Island and S of Intracoastal Waterway; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff.

Four (2012-078) on 27 December 2012, *Vermilion*: E side White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, along 2 mi. stretch of W end of Pine Island Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff.

One (2012-028) on 31 December 2012, *Calcasieu*: Friesen Rd., about halfway between Robinson and Ward Line roads; Robby J. Bacon (ph, p. 13).

One (2012-029) on 31 December 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: NE quad of LaMotte X Cormier Village roads, about 4 mi. NNE of Lacassine; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13).

One (2013-005) on 12 January 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Lake Forest Blvd.; derelict Easthaven Rehab Center near Bundy Rd.; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 13). Reportedly originally found by Joelle Finley.

One (2013-001) on 27 January 2013, *Calcasieu*: about 2 mi. E of Holmwood, on Nick Martone Rd. about 1/4 mi. N of Hwy. 14; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 13).

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)**

One (2012-045) from 21 November-24 December 2012, *Caddo*: Shreveport, private property edging Cross Lake just S of the W/S dead end of Lakewood Dr.; Terry Davis (ph, cover), Charles Lyon (ph only, p. 11), Ronnie Maum (ph only, p. 11), and Jonathan Carpenter (ph only, p. 11). This represents the first state record (see page 11).

**Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)**

One (2012-032) on 27 and 29 December 2012, *Plaquemines*: Diamond; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 20) and Jay V. Huner.

One (2012-040) from 22 December 2012-12 January 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Recovery Rd., old Recovery I landfill; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 20), Dan O'Malley (ph).

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*)**

One (2012-058) on 24 August 2012, *Orleans*: New Orleans, City Park, Couturie Forest; Claire Thomas (ph, p. 20).

**Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)**

One adult (2012-039) from 9 December 2012-24 February 2013, *Plaquemines*: Braithwaite at Caernarvon outfall canal; Phillip A. Wallace (ph p. 20, audio) and Robert D. Purrington. This is presumably one of the same individuals returning for its 4<sup>th</sup> winter at the same location: 2010-58, 2011-036.

One (2012-042) from 2 December 2012-29 January 2013, *Caddo*: Mooringsport, 409 E. Croom St.; **Terry Davis** (audio), John Dillon (ph), Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (ph only, p. 20), Ronnie Maum (ph only), Stephen Pagans (ph only), and Charles Lyon (ph only). Reportedly found on 1 Dec 2012 by Carolyn Phillips.

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

One (1997-37) on 3 September 1997, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. SW of Johnsons Bayou School; William R. Fontenot.

**Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)**

One (2012-072) on 9 May and (presumably the same individual relocated on) 12 May 2012, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **Jay V. Huner**, B. Mac Myers III (ph, p. 20), and Paul E. Conover (ph).

**Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)**

Two (1997-71) on 27-30 May 1997, *Jefferson*: Harahan; Peter A. Yaukey, Karen Fay, and James Beck. Reportedly present until 12 June 1997.

One male (1997-40) from 7-8 July 1997, *St. Charles*: Bonnet Carre' Spillway; Ronald J. Stein.

One (2010-106) on 29 May 2010, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract; Andrew Wheelan.

One (2012-081) on 9 May 2012, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 20) and **Steven W. Cardiff**.

### **Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)**

One (2012-071) on 19 April 2012, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilleta Tract; Tony Barnes (ph, p. 20). This represents the third accepted state record.

### **Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*)**

One female (2012-051) on 4 November 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: Aguillard Rd. N of Thornwell; Daniel F. Lane (ph, p. 20).

Two (2013-015) on 26 and 28 January 2013, *Caddo*: Shreveport, Shreveport Regional Airport; Jim Holmes, John Dillon, Devin Bosler and Justin Bosler (ph only, p. 20). Reportedly found by Terry Davis.

### **MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)**

One adult female (2012-041) on 9 December 2012, *Plaquemines*: E. bank Mississippi River, Perez Rd. X Hwy. 39; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 20), Robert D. Purrington, and **David P. Muth** (ph only).

### **Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*)**

One female or first year male (2010-108) on 11 October 2010, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract; Justin Hite.

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

One adult female (2012-047) on 18 and 25 November 2012, *Plaquemines*: Fort Jackson; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 20).

### **Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)**

One adult female (2012-030) from 2 December 2012-14 March 2013, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract; **Robert D. Purrington**, Erik I. Johnson (ph), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Mary Mehaffey (ph, p. 20), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, Jay V. Huner, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (ph only), Jacob Cooper, and David Bridge.

### **Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)**

One (2011-107) on 17 December 2011, *Cameron*: Cameron, Cedar St.; Justin Bosler (ph, p. 21). Reportedly originally found by Melvin Weber.

One (2012-079) on 24 March 2012, *Cameron*: neighborhood adjacent to BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Erik I. Johnson and B. Mac Myers III (ph only, p. 21).

One (2012-054) on 20 October 2012, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 21).

### **Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)**

One adult male (1997-60) on 22 December 1997, *Cameron*: woods ¼ mi. E of Savoie Rd. and Hwy. 82; Melvin Weber.

One female (1997-77) on 30 November 1997, *Cameron*: ridge just E of Rutherford Beach; Phillip A. Wallace.

One female (1997-63) on 22 December 1997, *Cameron*: approximately 1.5 mi. E of Rutherford Beach community; Paul E. Conover. May involve same individual as reported earlier that fall (1997-77).

One male (2012-016) on 7 February 2012, *Cameron*, Oak Grove; William Matthews (ph, p. 21).

One male (2011-087) on 30 October 2011, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Rosemary Seidler (ph, p. 21) and Justin Bosler (ph).

One female (2011-103) on 4 November 2011, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Thomas Finnie (ph, p. 21).

One female (2012-014) on 29 January 2012, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph) and Dave Patton (ph); possibly same individual (2011-103) reported in early November 2011.

One (2012-050) on 11 November 2012, *Cameron*: woods W of BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 21).

One female (2012-031) on 27 December 2012, *Lafayette*: Deer Park Ln., approximately 1.7 mi. N of Milton; Erik I. Johnson (ph, audio) and Toddy Guidry (ph only, p. 21).

### **Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)**

One female (1997-73) on 26 April 1997, *Calcasieu*: Fruge Rd., just N of intersection with Duhon Rd.; Laurence C. Binford, Joseph P Kleiman, and Winston Caillouet.

One female (2012-064) on 10 March 2012, *Jefferson Davis*: Constance X W Verret roads, approximately 4.6 mi. SSW of Lacassine; Glenn F. Seeholzer and John Mittermeier (ph only, p. 21).

One (2012-055) on 14 October 2012, *Cameron*: Cameron, Beach X Isaac streets; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 21).

### **Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

One male (2011-021) from 12-22 March 2011, *Jefferson*: Metairie, 63 Revelry Rd.; Tim Daigre (ph, p. 21).

One male (2012-049) on 11 November 2012, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 21).

One immature female (2012-033) on 27 December 2012, *Plaquemines*: Diamond; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 21).

One adult male (2013-010) from 2 January-13 February 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, S. Prieur and Cadiz streets; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 21).

### **Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

One adult male (2010-114) on 15 September 2010, *Jefferson*: Metairie, Casa Colibrí, 3016 45<sup>th</sup> St.; Nancy L. Newfield.

One adult male (2013-003) on 19 January 2013, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage NWR, Ridge Trail parking lot; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 21) and Erik I. Johnson. Reportedly originally found by Shawn Kurtzman previous day.

### **UNACCEPTED RECORDS**

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

### **THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING 37 RECORDS WAS NOT ACCEPTED:**

#### **Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)**

Two (2010-74) on 20 December 2010 and 7 January 2011, *Jefferson Davis*: N side Hwy. 14, approximately 3.5 mi. WSW of city of Lake Arthur, and about 1.3 mi. N of the lake (ph). There are two issues involved with a Canada Goose record. First, identification. If all agree that identification as a Canada Goose is correct, then origin must exclude free-flying feral Canada Goose. There is a feral population inhabiting the nearby Lake Arthur area, but in this case a majority of Members did not believe that the descriptive details and supporting photographic evidence excluded relatively large individual Cackling Geese (*B. hutchinsii*).

#### **American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)**

Two (male and female shot by duck hunters; 2001-96) on 7, 13 January 2001, *Vermilion*: Freshwater Marsh just N of eastern shore of White Lake, at the end of the "Phillips' Canal". Many Members believed that the "male" *could be* an American Black Duck, but the photos did not adequately show the throat, crown, or speculum. Additionally, the speculum appeared too greenish-blue instead of purplish, and had a white trailing edge that should be lacking on most pure American Black Ducks. Because the photos are of the mount (painted as an American Black Duck), true soft part coloration and especially that of the male's bill is not known. Although we do not dispute the reporter's account of these colors at death, photos of the freshly killed birds would have helped support this record. All Members agreed that the photos of the purported female were inadequate to eliminate a Mottled Duck.



### **Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)**

One male (2009-50) on 12 January 2009, *Acadia*: Benton Rd., approximately 3.5 mi. S of Crowley. This record went all the way to a Discussion Vote before it was decided that there was insufficient detail for acceptance. According to report the bird was sleeping with head tucked for most of observation. There was no mention of how long the head was raised or how good a look the observer had of the face. However, the reporter did state distance was too great for color of iris to be seen; that distance may have also impacted how well bill shape could be discerned. Because at least three Members had recent experiences with teal that initially appeared to be Cinnamon until closer scrutiny revealed otherwise, they believed that a hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged teal was not adequately addressed or eliminated by the details presented. See photo of a hybrid teal on page 3.

### **White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)**

One in worn female-type plumage (2009-104) on 16 May 2009, *Cameron*: western end of Holly Beach; (video). Most Members believed that the video better supported identification as a Surf Scoter.

Two, adult male and presumed juvenile (1991-98) on 7 December 1991, *Cameron*: south of BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. This record did not receive a deciding vote through three circulations and was discussed and resolved at this year's Fourth Circulation Discussion. Details were based on memory long after the observation and most Members ultimately did not consider the abbreviated description convincing.

### **American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)**

One adult male (2009-105) on 21 May 2009, *Jefferson Davis*: 2 mi. N of Jennings on Hwy. 26. Despite the date of this report from shortly after a wild American Flamingo was present to the south in Cameron Parish, some Members were not convinced that the report pertained to a flamingo. And, if the bird was a flamingo, then the description was still insufficient to identify this individual to species, which would be critical in eliminating the possibility of an escapee.

### **Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)**

One immature (2010-41) on 3 November 2010, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 near Cameron Parish Library at Johnsons Bayou (ph). This bird was in the vicinity where a stake-out (see 2010-040) had been seen by numerous reporters. However, the photos clearly depicted a Red-tailed Hawk.

### **Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**

One adult (1999-131) on 20 February 1999, *Rapides*: Echo-Cheneyville Rd. at Wemples Farm. This was a record submitted recently to eBird, flagged, then submitted to the LBRC for review. The record is solely based on observer's memory ten years after the observation. However proficient the observer may be at raptor identification, the description did not eliminate Bald Eagle. We do appreciate that the observer took time to submit this record to the LBRC archives.

### **Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)**

One (1992-90) on 23 October 1992, *Jefferson Davis*: couple miles S of Thornwell. This individual was included on a list submitted to eBird and flagged, the record was then submitted to the LBRC based on memory. We commend the observer for taking the time to submit this record and add it to the archive. However, the description was exceptionally brief: "a tiny black-colored rail." There are few accepted records of Black Rail away from the immediate coast and none have been found in this area during extensive recent work watching for rails from rice combines.

### **Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)**

One (1997-14) on 26 April 1997, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Exxon fields. Most of the Members believed that the description did not eliminate similar-appearing shorebird species and, considering the habitat in which the bird was observed, Members did not believe description eliminated a Pectoral Sandpiper or Ruff.

### **Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

One definitive basic female (2007-55) on 23 September 2007, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, SE corner Pintail Loop. All Members believed that despite the experience of the observer, the relatively brief and distant circumstances of the observation and the resulting relatively abbreviated description did not support identification and eliminate Pectoral Sandpiper. Unfortunately, no photos could be obtained.

### **California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

One sub-adult (2009-64) on 1 October 2009, *Cameron*: E end of Rutherford Beach near camps. Because the description was rather sketchy and the photograph submitted was more suggestive of a Lesser Black-backed Gull, the majority of Members were not convinced that this individual was correctly identified.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)-cont.** One 3rd basic or definitive basic (2010-003) on 23 January 2010, *Vermilion*: Lurby Rd., 3.3 mi. NNE of Abbeville. Most Members believed that photographs submitted did not eliminate a Herring Gull.

**Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)**

One third year (2009-46) on 2 May 2009, *Cameron*: Holly Beach. This record involves a beautifully photographed individual that could not be resolved through three circulations and went to the Discussion Round. Expert opinions were solicited during the course of its review and those opinions generally supported (moderately to enthusiastically) identification as a Slaty-backed Gull. However, four members believed that identification of this sub-adult individual as a Slaty-backed was not clear-cut. There was further concern that a hybrid could resemble this species, and, for those reasons they believed a photo-documented first state record should minimally require a definitive plumaged individual or one in a “classic” plumage, and not a “messy beast” as this gull was described by one of the outside expert reviewers.



**Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)**

Two (2010-85) on 24 April 2010, *Cameron*: Cameron, Cameron jetties. The photographs show very distant individuals that appear to be Royal Terns.

One first winter (2010-111) on 22 September 2010, *Cameron*: Holly Beach, beach at E end of Egret St. Most members believed that the details were insufficient to confirm Glaucous Gull over other whitish gull species or a leucistic individual, or for that matter, even an extremely bleached summering Herring Gull. Much better documentation would be required, especially for a September occurrence.

**Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)**

One 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle (2010-26) on 23 May 2010, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty at mouth Calcasieu River. This second cycle bird beginning second prebasic molt (inner primaries shed or growing in) retained a mix of juvenal and first basic feathers (wings/back, etc.). Although worn, this individual did not appear to show the typical wing covert checkering of a Great Black-backed Gull. Except for its reported bulk, photos suggested (showing rump and tail and extensive blackish tail band) a Lesser Black-backed Gull. However, the paleness in the inner primaries should eliminate a pure Lesser Black-backed, which would have more uniformly dark inner primaries and may not have looked so hefty to the reporting observer. Members agreed that photographs may better support identification of a ‘Chandeleur Gull’ or another X Herring Gull hybrid such as with Great Black-backed or Lesser Black-backed gulls.

One basic-plumaged adult (2006-46) on 29 October 2006, *Lafourche*: beachfront 1 mi. SSW of Port Fourchon (ph). This record went to Discussion where we not only discussed this record specifically but Great Black-backed Gull records in general. Members expressed concern that a hybrid could not be ruled-out by characters described by the observer, such as mantle color, and size and details of mirrors vs. tip on P10.

**Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)**

One adult (2007-67) on 14 December 2007, *Gulf of Mexico*: Walker Ridge, approximately 180 mi. S of Louisiana. Although the observer indicated that he was very familiar with this species, there was not enough detail in the description to eliminate a Black Noddy. There are currently no winter records for the state’s offshore waters and all previous accepted records coincide with tropical cyclones.

### **Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)**

One (1997-07) on 25 February 1997, *Gulf of Mexico*: 30 mi. SW of Port Fourchon, N 28.613889°, W 90.306944°. This record was accompanied by a very brief description that Members believed was not sufficient to rule out other jaeger species.

One (2007-48) on 25 September 2007, *Cameron*: approximately ½ mi. W of town of Holly Beach (ph). Photographs submitted were not sufficient to identify this individual to species and some Members believed it should remain a jaeger sp.

### **Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)**

One (2008-74) on 26 November 2008, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 202 Toledo Dr. (ph). This record went to a Discussion Round. Unfortunately, the single poor cellphone photograph was of little use in backing up the otherwise superficial written description. The location is not too far from last year's accepted record (2012-074). Although possibly a valid record, the documentation simply could not adequately eliminate a superficially similar escapee such as an African Green Pigeon (available in the aviary trade).

### **Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)**

One adult (1995-60) on 23 April 1995, *Cameron*: W of Holly Beach at Fina lease. The observer reported the primary basis for this identification was that the bird was "buffy." Although this individual may have been correctly identified, the description was too brief, leaving too much to Members' imaginations to fill in the gaps. Lesser Nighthawk presents an under-appreciated identification problem. The reporter indicated that others may have obtained photos and we welcome these for a recirculation.

### **Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*)**

Three (1997-10) on 5 January 1997, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, First Methodist Church at intersection of I-10 and North Blvd. Although most Members believed that this species was most probable due to location and time of the year, no diagnostic characters were provided to support the identification.

### **Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)**

One (2009-66) on 1 October 2009, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. See also 2009-65 that may pertain to the same individual. Most Members agreed that although the photos may be suggestive of a Western Wood-Pewee, none showed diagnostic characters sufficient for species identification. The overall darkness shown by the bird in the photos may have been an artifact of lighting. That this individual was reported to respond positively (but not vocally) to playback of Western Wood-Pewee does not confirm its identification.

One (2009-65) on 4 October 2009, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. See also 2009-66. Although the photographs were suggestive of this species, the best characters for identification were not visible in the photographs, nor were they described or discussed in the written report. This individual was not heard.

One (2009-81) on 1 November 2009, *Cameron*: Rockefeller Refuge headquarters. The observer made this identification "after-the-fact" after listening to recordings of pewee vocalizations. It is unclear from the description whether these refer to song or call. Most members believed there was insufficient detail to eliminate Eastern Wood-Pewee.

### **"Western" Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis/occidentalis*)**

One in fresh fall plumage (2007-68) on 20 December 2007, *Bossier*: south Bossier City, Red River NWR, at headquarters unit. Although most Members believed that this flycatcher may have been a member of the Western Flycatcher complex, there were no diagnostic characters provided even for "Western complex." There are a few accepted records (no accepted sight records) for the state, but none from northern Louisiana.

### **Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

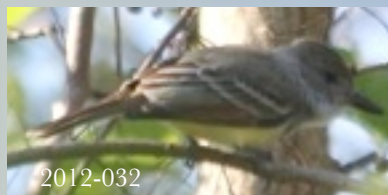
One (1997-44) on 20 September 1997, *Vermilion*: headquarters at Paul J. Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary. The observer did not provide a formal description of the bird to support its identification or separate it from similar species such as Vermilion Flycatcher.

### **Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

One presumed adult (2007-11) on 23 October 2007, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, Mississippi River batture off River Rd. over levee from South Stadium Dr. This was an interesting sight record that went to a Discussion Vote. Reported by a reliable observer, the observation details include a surprising amount of detail for the distance involved. Omitted, however, was any discussion of wing (active or suspended primary) molt, typically conspicuous on most/all fall Cave Swallows. For that reason



# Photo showcase 6: Flycatchers (end) through warblers

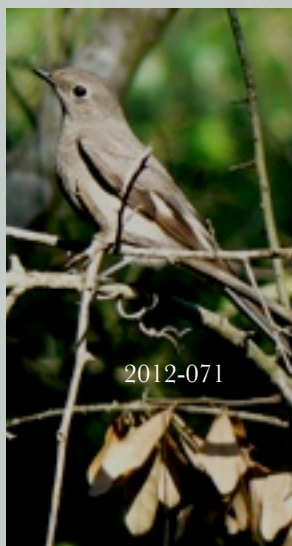


2012-032

This Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (2012-058) was photographed by Claire Thomas on 24 August 2012, at City Park, New Orleans.



2012-058



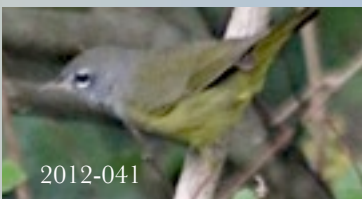
2012-071



2012-081

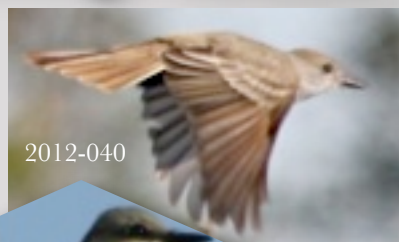
Although Tony Barnes wasn't really sure what he had (left) at Grand Isle on 19 April 2012, his photos clearly document the State's third record of Townsend's Solitaire (2012-071). If in doubt—get a photo!

Below, an adult female (2012-041) MacGillivray's Warbler photographed in Plaquemines Parish by Phillip A. Wallace, 9 December 2012.



2012-041

There were two records of wintering Brown-crested Flycatchers, one (2012-032) at Diamond, photo (left) from 27 December 2012, and one (2012-040) at Bayou Sauvage NWR, photo (right) 22 December 2012. Both photos by Phillip A. Wallace.

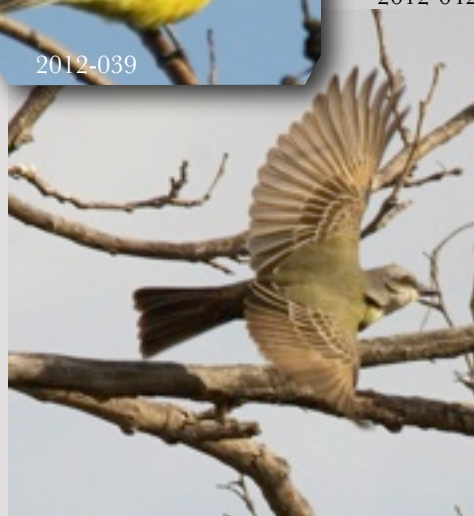


2012-040

There were two records of Tropical Kingbird—both documented by voice recordings in addition to photographs. The wintering adult (right) on 24 February 2013 (2012-039) is presumably one of the same individuals returning for a 4<sup>th</sup> season at Braithwaite (photo by Phillip A. Wallace). One (2012-042) discovered at Mooringsport represents the first accepted record for northern Louisiana, photographed here in flight (right) late in the season by Devin Bosler on 27 January 2013.



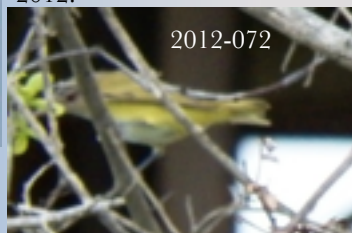
2012-039



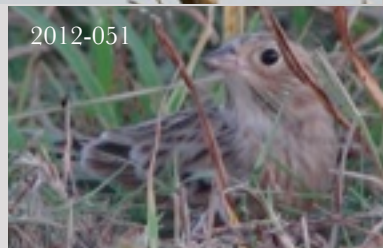
2012-042

Nearly an annual spring visitor to Grand Isle, this Black-whiskered Vireo (2012-081) was photographed there (below) by Donna L. Dittmann on 9 May 2012.

The Yellow-green Vireo (2012-072) was photographed (below) by B. Mac Myers III at BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 12 May 2012.



2012-072



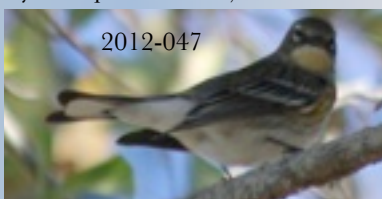
2012-051

Two reports of Chestnut-collared Longspur included this female (2012-051) photographed (above right) at Thornwell by Daniel F. Lane on 4 November 2012. Two cooperative individuals (2013-015) found during the LOS Winter Meeting included this one (right) captured in flight by Justin Bosler on 28 January 2013.



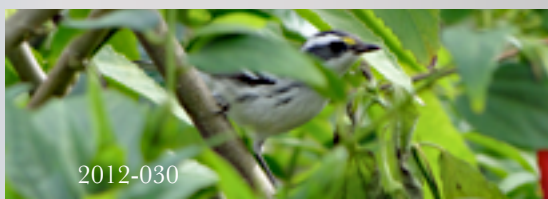
2013-015

This adult female "Audubon's" Warbler (2012-047) was at Fort Jackson 25 November 2012 (photo by Phillip A. Wallace).



2012-047

This adult female Black-throated Gray Warbler (2012-030) spent the winter in live oak-turk's cap habitat off Post Lane, Grand Isle; photo by Mary Mehaffey, 24 December 2012.



2012-030

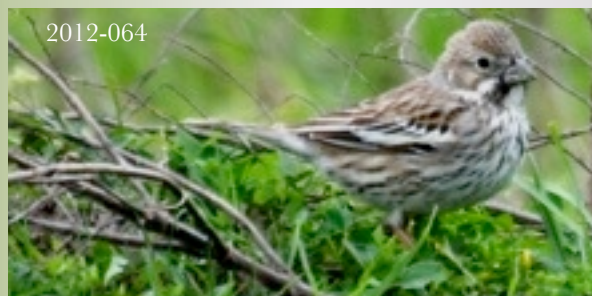
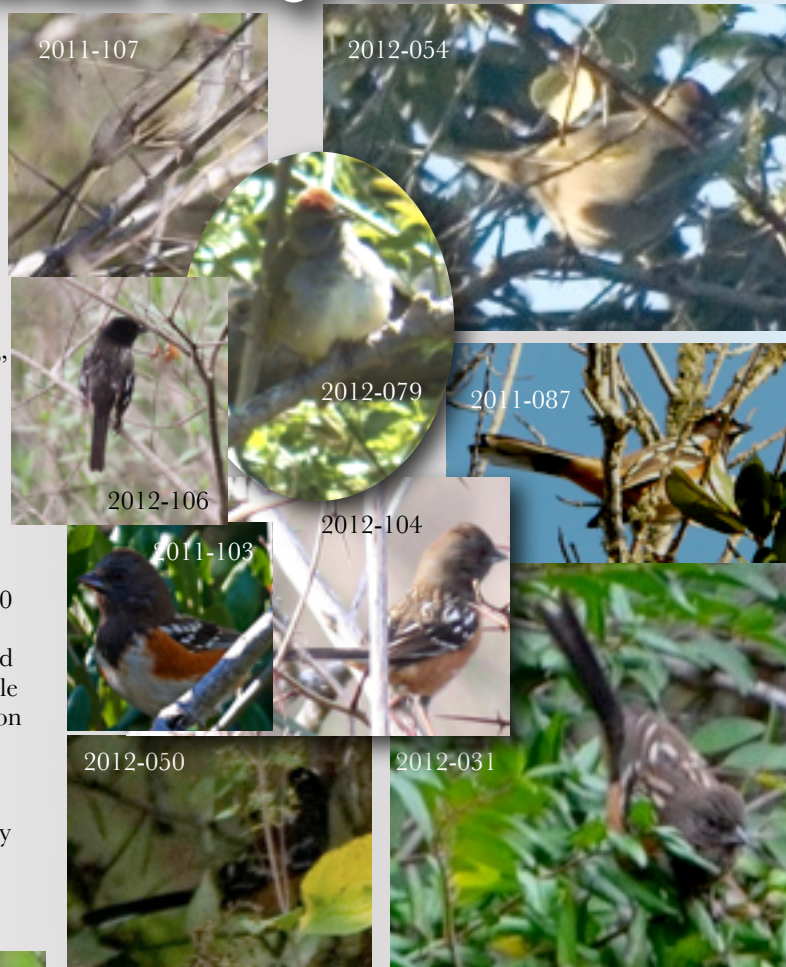


## Photo showcase 7: Towhees through blackbirds

Three records of Green-tailed Towhees included two from last year's mega-invasion: one (2011-107) at Cameron (photo opposite by Justin Bosler) 17 December 2011, and one (2012-079) near BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary (middle photo by B. Mac Myers III) 24 March 2012. The only report for fall/winter 2012-13 was of one (2012-054) at Johnsons Bayou 20 October 2012 (right photo by Paul E. Conover).

Spotted Towhees were also not as numerous. Of records included in this report, three are "leftovers" from winter 2011-12. These include a male (2012-016) photographed at Oak Grove, Cameron Parish by William Matthews on 7 February 2012. Discussion arising from last year's meeting review found us trying to sort out the various individuals present at BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. The consensus was two or three: this male (2011-087) photographed by Rosemary Seidler (far right) on 30 October 2011; a female (2011-103) photographed (right) by Thomas Finnie on 4 November 2011; and either another female (2012-014) or the same female (2011-104) photographed by Dave Patton (center) on 29 January 2012.

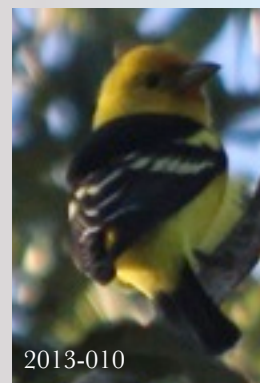
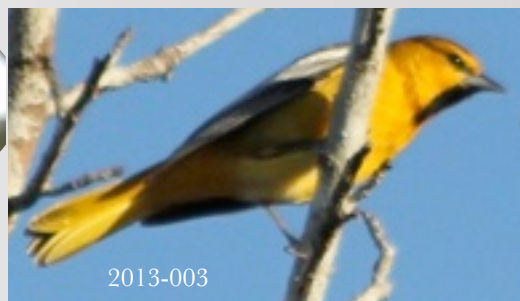
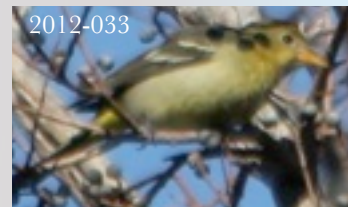
Two were found in late 2012: one (2012-050) photographed near BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary by Paul E. Conover on 11 November 2012; and a female (2012-031) photographed N of Milton by Toddy Guidry on 27 December 2012.



Not far from one reported last winter NE of Lacassine, John Mittermeier photographed (left) this female Lark Bunting (2012-064) S of Lacassine on 10 March 2012. A fall bird (2012-055) was photographed (right) by Paul E. Conover at Cameron 14 October 2012.



Contributing towards removal of Western Tanager from the Review List were four more accepted records. Tim Daigre photographed this male (2011-021) in Metairie on 22 March 2011 (left). Another male (2012-049) was photographed at BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary (left below) by Paul E. Conover on 11 November 2012. A more cooperative immature female (2012-033) was photographed (right) by Phillip A. Wallace at Diamond on 27 December 2012. And, finally, a lovely adult male (2013-010) was at New Orleans 26 January 2013, also photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (below, far right).



This gorgeous adult male (2013-003) Bullock's Oriole was photographed at Bayou Sauvage NWR by Phillip A. Wallace on 19 January 2013.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)-cont.** some Members were concerned that a Cliff Swallow was not adequately eliminated from consideration.

One each day (2006-35) on 28-29 October 2006, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle State Park. This sight record went to a Discussion Round. One Member present the day of the observation recalled it was a beautiful LOS weekend day with excellent lighting and swallows were constantly moving past at eye level. Because most of the accepted records of Cave Swallow are young birds with rather conspicuous primary molt, some Members were concerned that the description was too “generic” and that juvenile Cliff Swallow was not satisfactorily eliminated. Ultimately, Members agreed that the one sentence description was problematic because it covered sightings from *two different days that more than likely involved two different individuals*.

#### **Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)**

One probable female (2010-119) on 27 April 2010, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilleta Tract. This record went to a Discussion Round. Most Members believed that it was probably correctly identified but the circumstances of the observation, including only very brief views of only the dorsal side, were deemed by some Members not adequate to accept the record.

#### **Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*)**

One adult male (1996-87) on 22 December 1996, *Cameron*: about 2 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou on N side of Hwy. 82. The written description and supporting documentary notes were considered inadequate for the species’ acceptance to the State List.

#### **American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)**

One (1997-64) on 20 December 1997, *La Salle*: Nebo. The main mark given to identify this individual as an American Tree Sparrow was a dark spot on its breast. Members considered this insufficient to eliminate superficially similar sparrow species (e.g., Swamp Sparrow) or a sparrow missing feathers that could appear as a spot.

#### **Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)**

One breeding plumage male (2010-120) on 25 April 2010, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. This observation was relatively brief and although very suggestive of an adult male Lazuli, which is very distinctive, those members who voted not to accept emphasized the brevity of the observation and that because this species is known to hybridize with Indigo Bunting, there was not enough descriptive detail or discussion to eliminate a hybrid.

#### **Black-cowled Oriole (*Icterus prosthemelas*)**

One (1997-13) on 22 April 1996, *Cameron*: Little Pecan Island. This would have represented a first state and US record. There was only a brief description detailing a fleeting observation. All Members believed that without hard evidence it could not be accepted.

#### **Scott’s Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)**

One adult (2009-36) on 12 May 2009, *Cameron*: BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary. Most Members believed that the observer’s description of the plumage and song did not support identification as this species.

#### **Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)**

One adult male and female (2007-41) on 20 May 2007, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, two blocks east of water tower. Although reported from a location where this species has been somewhat regular, the description was not adequate to eliminate Brown-headed Cowbird. Additionally, there remains no accepted record to date of a female Shiny Cowbird.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FOLLOWING RECORD WAS NOT ACCEPTED:

#### **Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*)**

One pair (2010-116) on 20 August 2010, *Vermilion*: near intersection of Gladu and Shams roads (photos right). The photographs submitted leave no doubt as to the identity of these ducks. This South American species is common in captivity and escape from captivity is a more plausible explanation of its presence in Vermilion Parish than as a natural vagrant. In the future, this sighting could have greater relevance if more individuals are discovered or a population becomes established. The committee welcomes submissions of records for all exotic species, even those with little chance of natural vagrancy, so that occurrence of exotics is documented.



Photos: Michael J. Musumeche



# The Louisiana Bird Records Committee

LBRC Newsletter



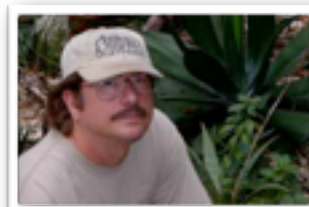
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ERIK I. JOHNSON,  
NANCY L.  
NEWFIELD, CURTIS  
C. SORRELLS &  
PHILLIP A.  
WALLACE WHO  
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AND SUGGESTED  
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PLEASE SEND  
CORRECTIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY.  
THANK YOU!

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