

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
Annual Meeting Report 2019



**Louisiana's Second Occurrence  
of Pacific Loon**

This immature Pacific Loon (LBRC 2018-012) represents only the second accepted state occurrence. It was discovered and photographed by Herman Callais Jr. on private property at Convent, Louisiana. Unfortunately, the locality was inaccessible for other birders to visit. See also p. 10.

**Synopsis of the 2019 LBRC Annual Meeting**

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

The LBRC's 2019 Annual Meeting was held at Baton Rouge on its predetermined date of 16 March as per LBRC Bylaws (meeting to occur on the first Saturday after 9 March).

Eight of nine Voting Members were present; below, from left to right: Larry R. Raymond, Robert C. Dobbs, Casey Wright, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), John K. Dillon, Erik I. Johnson, and Paul E. Conover (photo by Steven W. Cardiff, Chair).



The Meeting was called to order on schedule at 10:00 AM at the LSU Museum of Natural Science's Exhibits Hall in Foster Hall.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is threefold. First, this is when Member elections are held. Second, the Meeting provides an opportunity to fast-track review of straightforward First Circulation reports and to review specimen records. And, third, deciding any accumulated "Discussion Round" Fourth Circulation reports.

This year, we kicked off the Meeting with 11 Fourth Circulation reports. These reports remained unresolved after their Third Circulation in e-Rounds 159 or 163. Two records were accepted and nine were determined to be unacceptable; all appear in the *22<sup>nd</sup> Report*.

Annual Report, July 8, 2019

## 2019 LBRC Annual Meeting

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After finishing Fourth Circulation record review, Members took a break to celebrate the LBRC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a fresh strawberry cake from Ambrosia Bakery. The LBRC's newest Member, Casey Wright, did the honors of blowing out the four symbolic candles.

The Meeting then resumed in the bird collection area for review of First Circulation specimen records and examination of other specimens relevant to other in-progress reviews.

The LBRC has never reviewed records of Evening Grosbeak from prior to the species' addition to the Review List on 7

September 1996. We reviewed 16 specimens (15 study skins, one skeleton + spread wing). Photo right shows Robb Dobbs, Erik Johnson, and Casey Wright examining the spread wing specimen. These records appear in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Report. Interestingly, there have been no reports of Evening Grosbeak since it was added to the Review List.

Members took the opportunity to examine study skins of *Sterna* terns (related to a couple of recent fall reports of Arctic Tern), followed by comparisons of female-plumaged Bullock's and Baltimore orioles to assess published/proposed/disputed identification characters (e.g., wing covert



patterns). The main takeaway message was that wing pattern and facial pattern (especially presence of eye line for Bullock's and dark auriculars for Baltimore), are helpful but not necessarily diagnostic. Steve Cardiff (photo, left, shows Steve leaning over specimens and, also, front to back, Erik, Rob, Casey, John) offered (although certainly not definitive!) that Bullock's look "mean" and Baltimore looks "happy and friendly" due to the presence of the dark eye line. Baltimore tends to look more orangey, especially the breast, tail, and face, whereas Bullock's is yellower. Some birds (likely hybrids?) remain problematic.



Next we moved on to Fork-tailed Flycatcher subspecies. This was a fairly quick look involving only a few specimens to see variation of the attenuated tips of the outer primaries and back coloration. Both of the winter 2018-19 'adult' males appear to belong to the subspecies *monachus*. Erik I. Johnson suggested that the Fabacher Road male was actually a first-year bird based on retained primary coverts (reportedly visible in some photos) and not an adult even though it had adult-type primaries. Erik stated that a complete/near complete primary molt following formative/1st basic molt was expected for all or most *Tyrannus*. Paul Conover and Steve Cardiff suggested that was not the case for, say, Couch's Kingbird. So, we looked at a couple of Louisiana Couch's specimens which indeed did not share that pattern. Obviously more study is needed.

## Meeting Discussion Topics

### Review List

The Meeting shifted back to the Exhibits Hall to finish remaining discussion topics.

Ahead of the Meeting, Secretary Dittmann provided statistics for several species that had been proposed for removal from the Review List: Cory's and Audubon's shearwaters, and White-winged Scoter. Status of these species has been discussed in the past but none had surpassed the threshold of greater than 4/year averaged over a ten-year period.

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## 2019 LBRC Annual Meeting

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Members discussed the current status of each species. Paul Conover moved to remove Audubon's Shearwater. This species has a long history of records offshore and found dead (salvaged) onshore following tropical storms. Offshore coverage remains sporadic and numbers of Audubon's are not consistently found. A vote was taken and only two Members voted in support of removal; Audubon's Shearwater remains on the Review List.

### Black Rails

Audubon Louisiana has been conducting Black Rail surveys in Louisiana's coastal marshes. In addition to six records currently under review, Erik Johnson (also Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Louisiana) gave a summary of survey results to date. The secretive Black Rail appears to be a regular component of the Louisiana avifauna in the western coastal brackish/salt marshes dominated by *Spartina spartinae*. The LBRC will re-evaluate the species' status on the Review List following eventual submission and review of all records associated with Audubon Louisiana's Black Rail survey project.

### LBRC Updates

LBRC Secretary Dittmann indicated that we are doing well keeping up with and completing review of reports on the website Pending Pages and she will continue to circulate older paper records to work on that backlog as well. Paul Conover, LBRC Website manager, says he is working on the Gallery Pages to get all accepted records there, and may also assist with digitizing the backlog of older paper records.

### Member Elections

Terms of two Voting Members expired at the Meeting: **Robert C. Dobbs** and **Erik I. Johnson**. Both Members were nominated and unanimously re-elected to serve another four-year term. **Chair Steven W. Cardiff** and **Secretary Donna L. Dittmann** were nominated and re-elected to serve another one-year term.

## *Twenty-second Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee*

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

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

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

The Louisiana Bird Records Committee (henceforth LBRC or Committee) was established in 1979 to evaluate and archive records of unusual species that occur in Louisiana. The LBRC strives to determine record acceptability to aid in understanding the patterns of occurrence of rarities in the state. Each record (in the form of observers' written reports, copies of field notes, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, or specimens) is reviewed by each of nine elected LBRC Voting Members (in accordance with LBRC Bylaws, *LOS News* No. 87; Bylaws last amended 12 March 2011 and viewable at <http://www.losbird.org>). Current LBRC Members in alphabetical order: Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover, John K. Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Larry R. Raymond, and Casey Wright.

All records submitted to the LBRC are archived at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (henceforth LSUMNS) and/or on the LBRC webpages. Records included in this report were resolved in e-Rounds 163-166, or during the Discussion Round at the 2019 Annual Meeting. It also includes a few records that inadvertently were not published. LBRC Members (past and present) who evaluated records contained in this report: Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann, John K. Dillon, Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Charles E. Lyon, Paul M. McKenzie, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers III, Robert D. Purrington, Larry R. Raymond, Alfred E. Smalley, and James R. Stewart.

The *Twenty-second Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee* includes 176 records, of which the identification of 123 is accepted; one of those was not accepted based on origin. The overall acceptance rate is 69% (compare to 78% in the *Twenty-first Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee*). This report completes review of records



through 2018 posted on the *View Pending Reports* section at the LOS LBRC website. Note that these pages may be re-populated if older submissions are subsequently received. The LBRC also continues to work through its backlog of never-reviewed older paper records contained in the LBRC files. Many of these records were held back from review because the LBRC was hoping to receive additional reports or photographs. Because no additional information has been forthcoming, these records will be reviewed with information currently in hand. The LBRC will strive to complete as many records as possible from the year preceding its Annual Meeting. Other 2018 reports (or those on the Pending Pages) not included in this report are currently in or pending circulation. We encourage observers to submit additional documentation for any records posted there or resolved in this report so that the LBRC files can be as complete as possible. Records completing review on the *View Pending Reports* page will be migrated to the *Photo and Record Gallery* page: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/reviewlist.html>.

The official State List total remains at 483 species. Highlights in this report include the second state occurrence of Pacific Loon, the second and third state occurrences of Limpkin, third state occurrences of Gray Flycatcher and Curve-billed Thrasher, and fifth state occurrence of the elusive Masked Duck. All but the Pacific Loon (on private property) were able to be observed by many of the state's active birders. The sixth and seventh occurrences of Fork-tailed Flycatcher included males with definitive primaries – helping to assign them to subspecies *monachus*. Also of interest were initial reports generated by Audubon Louisiana's coastal Black Rail surveys, which are uncovering that this very elusive species is likely more regular (at least locally) in coastal salt and brackish marshes than ever imagined. And, finally, although the species is already on the state list, the first LBRC-accepted record of American Tree Sparrow.

The Committee maintains, and annually reassesses, a *Review List* of species that have been confirmed at least once in the state. As per guidelines in the LBRC Bylaws, species qualify for the Review List if they average four or fewer *accepted* occurrences annually averaged over the preceding ten-year period. A species may remain on the *Review List* when the number of reports exceeds the threshold for “de-listing” when the LBRC has judged the difficulty of identification warrants keeping that species on the list or because the number of actual *accepted* records *on file* is substantially fewer than the total number of reports generated by the birding community. No changes were made to the LBRC Review List at the Spring 2019 meeting. The *Review List* stands at 151 species, 31% of the State List. Five subspecies or regional forms are on the Review List based on accepted records: Iceland “Thayer’s” Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*), Great Blue “Great White” Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*); Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*), Pink-sided (*J. hyemalis mearnsi*), and “Oregon-group” (*J. hyemalis montanus*/Oregon group) juncos; and Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*). The current *Review List* can be found on p. 35–36 or online here: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/ReviewList2019.pdf>. Breeding documentation for exotic species is requested to monitor colonization or expansion of range in Louisiana (e.g., Monk Parakeet), as well as to record presence or status of other potential introduced species.

Records in this report are organized in taxonomic order as per the 7th edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] 1998), including changes through the 60<sup>th</sup> *Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds* (2019). Changes from the 59<sup>th</sup> *Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds* (2018) result in a number of changes to the Louisiana list. Genera of the following species are changed: Baird's and Henslow's sparrows from *Ammodramus* to *Centronyx*; LeConte's, Seaside, and Nelson's sparrows from *Ammodramus* to *Ammospiza*. List order is *Ammodramus*, *Centronyx*, *Ammospiza*. Downy, Ladder-backed, and Hairy woodpeckers are changed from *Picoides* to *Dryobates*. A new family of storm-petrels is recognized: Oceanitidae, which includes Wilson's Storm-Petrel. A new linear sequence is adopted for Accipitridae as follows: subfamily Elaninae (White-tailed Kite), subfamily Gypaetinae (Swallow-tailed Kite), then subfamily Accipitrinae (Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, Northern Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Mississippi Kite, and Harris's, White-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Swainson's, Zone-tailed, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Ferruginous hawks). Changes from the 60<sup>th</sup> *Supplement* include revised order of flycatcher family Tyrannidae: subfamily Tyranninae now leads with *Myiarchus* species, *Pitangus*, *Myiodynastes* *Empidonomus*, and *Tyrannus* species. Then follows subfamily Fluvicolinae: *Contopus*, *Empidonax*, *Sayornis*, and *Pyrocephalus*. The scientific species name of White-winged Scoter is changed from *fusca* to *deglandi*. The genus of Leach's and Band-rumped storm-petrels becomes *Hydrobates*. The common name of Blue-throated Hummingbird

becomes Blue-throated Mountain-gem. The hyphen is removed from Ground-Dove (Ground Dove). The linear sequence changes for subfamilies within Cuculidae (Crotophaginae, Neormorphinae, Cuculidae), and species order is revised for *Charadrius* plovers, swallows (Hirundinidae), and sparrows (Passerellidae). Finally, the genera are again changed within the traditional *Vermivora* warblers: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Lucy's, Nashville, and Virginia's warblers are now *Leiothlypis*. The updated State List can be found at the LBRC website here: <http://losbird.org/checklist.pdf>.

Within each species account, records are arranged chronologically. Where possible, individuals for each record are identified by age and plumage. Accepted records include name of submitting observer(s). As per LBRC policy, submitting observers are not listed for records that are not accepted (including those by origin). The following abbreviation follows the observer's name if documentation is submitted in the following form(s): photographic (ph), specimen (LSUMZ), or autopsy data (preparator initials and prep number). If more than one observer submitted a report and the original discoverer(s) is known and included among them, then their name is **boldfaced**. If the discoverer is named in another report or otherwise known but he/she did not submit a report, then they are mentioned at the end of the record entry. eBird submissions do not constitute an LBRC submission unless referenced in an observer's LBRC long form. If an eBird list includes *an identifiable photograph* that extends a record's date range but is not submitted as part of a report to the LBRC, then the eBird list reference is acknowledged but not the eBirder's identity. If photographic documentation *is discovered* on a Facebook or other webpage and supports a date extension, then a reference is included. Note that the LBRC does not routinely monitor these pages searching for supporting record documentation. Please also note that a link to a shared eBird list does not automatically grant the LBRC use of other observer's photos contained in that report.

LBRC records are archived at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS) and on the LBRC webpage server(s). All specimens reported herein are housed at LSUMNS unless otherwise specified. For archival purposes, the LBRC will accept additional reports/documentation or corrections for any record that has been resolved. If this documentation contains information that could alter the original outcome of a record, then the record will be re-circulated with that 'new' information. Abbreviations used: Blvd. (=Boulevard); Dr. (=Drive); Hwy. (=Highway); Ln. (=Lane); mi. (=mile/miles); approx. (=approximately); Rd. (=Road); SP (=State Park); St. (=Street); WMA (=Wildlife Management Area). Compass directions are abbreviated and capitalized (e.g., W = west of). Parish names are italicized. Latitude and longitude are given as decimal degrees. Translations of some locality names to standardized versions: "Sureway Woods" =TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract, Grand Isle, *Jefferson*; "Johnson Bayou" or "Johnson's Bayou" =Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron* (used here and in previous LBRC reports); "Peveto Beach Woods" or "Peveto Woods Sanctuary" =Baton Rouge Audubon Society Peveto Woods Sanctuary at Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron*.

The LBRC sincerely thanks all individuals who submitted rare bird reports or contributed expert advice for records included in this report: Richard Armstrong, James B. Avant, Diana and Hayes Bailly, John Baker, Jeff Barnhill, James W. Beck, Nancy Bird, Lizzi Bonczek, Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Elaine Bourque, Gary Broussard, Sue Broussard, P. Bruner, Herman Callais Jr., Steven W. Cardiff, Charlotte Chehotsky, Harold Cleveland, Ned Coleman, Paul E. Conover, Cindy Copeland, Jennifer P. Coulson, Tristan J. Davis, Louis Debetaz, Sandra DeHart, Jim Delahoussaye, Johnny DesOrmeaux, Paul M. Dickson, John K. Dillon, Cathy DiSalvo, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Ronlyn A. Domingue, J. William Eley, Maureen Ellis, J. T. Fairchild, Thomas Finnie, Scott France, Randy Frederick, Andrew From, Joan Garvey, Mark A. Greene, R. Martin Guidry, Michka Hebing, Hubert Hervey, H. Lawson Hite II, Patti Holland, Jim Holmes Jr. Jr., James Holmes, Jay V. Huner, James L. Ingold, Erik I. Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Patricia L. Johnson, Joseph P. Kleiman, Nedra K. Klein, Alan Kneidel, Jacob Kraemer, Douglas A. Lancaster, Daniel F. Lane, Justin Lehman, Joseph Lemoine, David L'Hoste, Irvin Louque, Marlene DeHart Louviere, Charles E. Lyon, William Matthews, Michele McLindon, Paul M. McKenzie, Chris Merritt, Robert Meyer, Brad Moon, Joseph Mosley, Rose Must, Michael J. Musumeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers III, Nancy L. Newfield, Bruce Neville, John P. O'Neill, Kathleen O'Shaughnessy, Brian J. O'Shea, Ken Oeser, Glenn

Ousset, Dave Patton, David L. Pearson, Mark Pethke, Richard Prentki, Malise Prieto, Robert D. Purrington, Larry R. Raymond, J. V. Remsen, Kathy Rhodes, Kevin M. Ringleman, Janine Robin, Patricia Rosel, Gary H. Rosenberg, Cameron L. Rutt, Sam Saunders, Jessica Schulz, Wilby Seal, Rosemary Seidler, Vicki Sensat, John P. Sevenair, Don B. Shepard, Bud Snowden, Malcolm Mark Swan, Joshua T. Sylvest, Claire Thomas, Jeff Trahan, Thomas Trenchard, Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber, Jon Wise, Lizette Wroten, Casey Wright, Paul Yakupzack, and Peter H. Yaukey.

### ACCEPTED RECORDS: IDENTIFICATION

The identification of the following 120 records was accepted:

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

One (2018-071) on 10 November 2018, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approx. 4 mi. E Cameron; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 24).

One (2018-072) on 10 November 2018, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approx. 4 mi. E Cameron; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 24). Information in the report was convincing that this was a different individual than 2018-071.

One (2018-082) on 18 November 2018, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, approx. 4 mi. E Cameron; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 24). Information in the report was convincing that this was likely a different individual than 2018-071 or 2018-072.

Two (2018-078) on 23 December 2018, *Cameron*: offshore at the Rutherford Beach settlement; Paul E. Conover.

One (2019-014, p. 23) on 5 March 2019, *Terrebonne*: Point Aux Chenes Rd. at the Lowland's Borrow Pit; Kathy Rhodes (ph, p. 24).

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

Three female/immature types (2018-024) on 17 February 2018, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 24).

One (2018-034) on 27 March-4 April 2018, *Cameron*: Cameron, Davis Rd.; **Jay V. Huner** (ph) and Thomas Finnie (ph, p. 24).

#### Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*)

One adult female (2018-040) on 26 June-24 July 2018, *Caddo*: Tar Slough, 1513 Leonard Rd., N 32.368056° W93.679444°; **Paul M. Dickson**, Jacob Kraemer (ph only, p. 24), John K. Dillon (ph), J. V. Remsen (ph), Jay V. Huner (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), and Robert C. Dobbs (ph). This is the fifth accepted state occurrence.

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

One male (2017-015) on 8 April 2017, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilletta Tract; Ned Coleman (letter, ph), Jon Wise (ph only, p. 24), and Casey Wright (ph only).

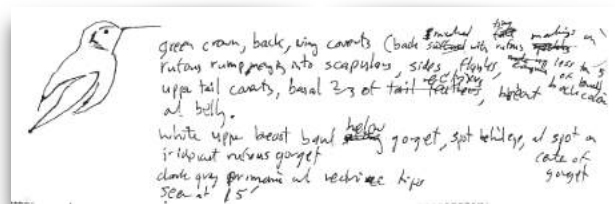
One male (2018-032) on 26 March 2018, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Whiskey Island; Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 24).

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

Up to six (2018-081) on 12 November 2018 to 15 January 2019, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, University Lakes; **Cameron L. Rutt** (ph, p. 25) and Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff. Photo-documented reports in eBird to 20 January 2019 (see <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51878769>).

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

One adult male (1989-171) on 14-17 January 1989, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, Glenmore Dr. near intersection of Government and Acadian; Malcolm Mark Swan (sketch and notes, right) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded, T01332 on 17 January, data card only).



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



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

One immature male (2019-011) on 10-16 February 2019, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 17445 Paladin Dr.; **Michka Hebing** (ph, p. 25) and Nancy L. Newfield (banded 14 February 2019; band #M52293).

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

One (2017-008) on 15 February 2017, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach; Erik I. Johnson.

One banded (2017-094) on 1 December 2017, *Cameron*: John Allaire property (private), West Jetty area, between Calcasieu Pass and Holly Beach, and between Hwy. 82 and the beach; **Justin Lehman** and Thomas Finnie (ph, p. 25).

Two and seven individuals (2017-101) on 12 December 2017 and 2 March 2018 respectively, *Cameron*: East of Holly Beach, between Hwy. 82 and beach; Justin Lehman. These were on the same survey plots during Audubon Louisiana Black Rail surveys.

Four caught and banded (2018-033; two individuals on each date) on 3 and 26 March 2018, *Cameron*: John Allaire property (private), West Jetty area, between Calcasieu Pass and Holly Beach, and between Hwy. 82 and the beach; Justin Lehman and Erik I. Johnson (ph), and John Dillon (ph, p. 25).

One banded (2018-085) on 31 January 2018, *Vermilion*: Paul J. Rainey Sanctuary, E Chenier au Tigre toward Southwest Pass; Justin Lehman.

Three or four heard, one banded (2018-087) on 16 March 2018, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach; Justin Lehman. This may involve individual LBRC 2017-054, which was caught November 2017.

**Limpkin** (*Aramus guarauna*)

One pair nested and hatched seven chicks (2018-020), adults first detected 31 January 2018, with at least one individual still present at location at the end of 2018, *Terrebonne*: Lake Houma, Hollywood Rd., vicinity of N29.6116°, W90.7212°: Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, Joan Garvey (ph), Kathy Rhodes (ph), Nancy L. Newfield, Michael J. Musumeche (ph), Jay V. Huner (ph), Janine Robin (ph), Erik I. Johnson (ph), Robert C. Dobbs (ph), James W. Beck (ph), J. V. Remsen (ph only), Diana and Hayes Bailly (ph), Jeff Trahan (ph), Charles E. Lyon (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), H. Lawson Hite II (ph), Sandra DeHart (ph), Marlene DeHart Louviere (ph), Mark Pethke (ph), Randy Frederick (ph), Michele McLindon (ph), Thomas Trenchard (ph), John P. Sevenair (ph), John K. Dillon (ph), Casey Wright (ph), James (Jim) Holmes Jr. (ph), and Jessica Schulz (ph, p. 25). Michael Autin

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## Louisiana's Limpkins

On the heels of Josh Sylvest's December 2017 first state occurrence (LBRC 2017-084), two more Limpkins (2018-020) were discovered on 31 January 2018 (see above, 2018-020). Unlike the inaccessible 2017 birds, to the delight of many observers this pair was easily visible on the banks of Lake Houma along Hollywood Rd. Then, the *pair* nested! A multitude of eBird lists provide a fabulous chronology of this breeding event. A photo by Kevin Cunningham on 1 April documents seven chicks. The incubation period for Limpkin is reported as 26-28 days (Bryan 2002). So, if we estimate time based on the appearance of chicks, then the clutch was finished about 1 March and egg-laying likely initiated around 22 February (eggs laid daily: Walkinshaw 1982). If one assumes that seven chicks *equals all of the eggs laid and hatched*, then this pair

had a high clutch size; Bryan (2002) reports 72% of clutches had 5 or 6 eggs, whereas only 14% had 7 eggs (first-year females produce smaller clutches than older birds). Considering that 6-7 of the young were still with the



parent(s) on 3 May (assuming hatch around 25 March) and that juveniles are reported to start wandering at 8-10 weeks (Ingalls 1972), then there's a good chance that the chicks reached independence.

eBird lists also offered a wealth of information (much of it supported by photographs) about these birds' foraging behavior including diet, e.g., some clams but predominantly invasive apple snails, photo left shows shells collected at locality), courting behavior, copulations (observed 6 Feb by K. Dupont, J. Romano; and 12 Feb by J. Rogers), nesting behavior (12 Feb by J. Rogers), and vocalizations (including videos with audio). Behaviors can additionally be gleaned or confirmed from the numerous photos that have been posted or shared among various Facebook pages including LABIRD, Louisiana Birds and Birdwatching, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, Terrebonne Bird Club, and ABA Rare Bird Alert. These Limpkins debuted on Twitter. The pair was covered by local news outlets (e.g., <https://www.houmatoday.com/news/20180203/bird-that-feeds-on-local-invasive-species-spotted-in-terrebonne>; [https://www.houmatimes.com/news/new-bird-species-may-be-a-big-boost-locally/article\\_b6adf356-273b-11e8-8520-0ffaeabda8288.html](https://www.houmatimes.com/news/new-bird-species-may-be-a-big-boost-locally/article_b6adf356-273b-11e8-8520-0ffaeabda8288.html)); in popular articles (e.g., Erik Johnson's: <http://la.audubon.org/news/what-what-louisiana-s-first-and-second-limpkin-reports>); on websites: (e.g., <https://bayouwoman.com/the-limpkin-have-landed/>); in blogs: (e.g., David Muth: <https://blog.nwf.org/2018/06/birders-snails-and-the-limpkin/>); and videos on YouTube (e.g., J. V. Remsen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0BGtL3lgXg&t=18s>; Kathy Rhodes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAXAv0f5xAw>).

Thanks to the efforts of Kathy Rhodes the nesting area was fenced on 21 February 2018 to protect the Limpkins; the Terrebonne Parish Council designated the area for 90 days as a "Bird and Habitat Conservation Area" to protect the pair during the bird's nesting period. See YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhvmnOn6svs>. This resolution resulted in heightened awareness of birding and ecotourism in the parish, and the parish even cleaned garbage from the site to approve its curb appeal (Lake Houma habitat right).



A recent paper documenting Louisiana's first nesting record of Limpkin suggests their expansion is associated with the proliferation of introduced Giant Apple Snail (Dobbs et al. 2019). It also suggests that other birds that exploit Apple Snails, such as Snail Kite (another Apple Snail specialist) could follow suit.

Whether this pair involved any of the four individuals first reported by Josh Sylvest (LBRC 2017-085; 20<sup>th</sup> Report of the LBRC) is unknown. The Hollywood Ave. location is approximately 13 mi. as a Limpkin flies from the Sylvest site, a trivial distance compared to known dispersal distances of marked individuals, which have been documented to move as far as 161 mi. (Bryan 2002).

At least one of the Hollywood Ave. individuals was seen to 25 December. After a pause in reports/ observations, at least three Limpkins were reported again beginning in March 2019. A 26 June eBird report shows an adult with four partially grown juveniles, documenting continued breeding at the site: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57799936>. Two other Limpkins were reported in 2019 (LBRC 2019-012, p. 9) from the Turtle Bayou area only about 20 mi. from the Hollywood Ave. site. It will be interesting to follow Louisiana Limpkins into the future.

#### Literature Cited

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Photos are by Donna L. Dittmann

*Twenty-second Report* continues next page





**Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull (*Larus glaucooides kumlieni*)**

One first-cycle immature (2018-006) on 6 and 13 January 2018, *Acadia*: Egan; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 27).

One first-cycle immature (2018-025) on 25 February 2018, *Acadia*: Egan; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 27).

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

One immature (2011-010) on 29 April to 2 May 2011, *Cameron*: Calcasieu River at Cameron ferry landing and mouth of jetty; **Rosemary Seidler, Sue Broussard** (ph only, p. 27), Daniel F. Lane, and Justin Bosler.

One first-cycle immature (2017-014) on 5 April 2017, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach at West Belle Pass; Casey Wright (ph).

One first-cycle immature (2018-002) on 4 January 2018, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge Dump, West Irene Rd; Daniel F. Lane and J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 27). See also: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/8013969@N03/albums/72157664674711138/with/38798643274/>; <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41629546>.

One first-cycle immature (2018-064) on 21 October 2018, *Cameron*: Cameron, boat landing near end of Davis Rd; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 27). Reportedly first found by Thomas Morris.

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

One first-cycle immature (2015-066) on 16 December 2015, *Jefferson/Lafourche*: Elmer's Island WMA, beach area near parish line and mouth of Bayou Von Thunder, approx. 1.5-2.5 km W of where WMA entrance road intercepts beach; Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff.

One first-cycle immature (2018-007) on 6 January 2018, *Acadia*: Egan; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 28).

One first-cycle immature (2018-013) on 13 January 2018, *Jefferson Davis*: Welsh Landfill; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 28) and J. V. Remsen (photo only).

One first-cycle immature (2018-014) on 29 January and 5 February 2018, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge Dump, West Irene Rd.; Daniel F. Lane and J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 28). See also: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42350117>, <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42520026>.

One first-cycle immature (2018-021) on 4 February 2018, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph).

**Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

One in juvenal plumage (2017-042) on 5 September 2017, *Caddo*: Cross Lake; John K. Dillon and Charles E. Lyon (ph, p. 28). This is the ninth overall, first fall, and first interior occurrence for Louisiana.

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

One immature (2018-012) on 12 January to at least 10 February 2018, *St. James*: Convent; Herman Callais Jr. (ph, pp. 1 and 28). This is the second accepted state occurrence.

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

One (2018-061) on 22 September 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: 24.5 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.636°, W89.162°; Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 28). Reportedly first spotted by Jack Rogers.

One (2018-062) on 22 September 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: 30 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.567°, W89.114°; Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 28) and Cameron L. Rutt (ph only).

One (2018-063) on 22 September 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: 23.7 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.621°, W89.204°; Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 28) and Cameron L. Rutt (ph only).

One (2018-080) on 22 September 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: 22.0 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.6424°, W89.2537°; Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 28) and Cameron L. Rutt (ph).

**Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)**

One (2018-060) on 22 September 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: 10.7 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.798°, W89.299°; Erik I. Johnson (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph), and Cameron L. Rutt (ph only, p. 29).

**Audubon's Shearwater** (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

Two (2018-049) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 3/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.106 °, W88.799 ° (heading Northwest towards Galveston); James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. (ph, p. 29) See also: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48080192>.

Three (2018-053) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 7/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.34 °, W89.174 ° (heading Northwest towards Galveston); James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. (ph, p. 29). See also: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48080151>.

One (2018-055) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 11/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.556 °, W89.538 ° (heading Northwest towards Galveston); James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. See also: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48080125>.

One (2018-057) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 20/30, off Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.997 °, W90.37 ° (heading Northwest towards Galveston) - Green Canyon; James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. (ph, p. 29). See also: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48080005>.

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

One immature (2018-023) on 17 March 2018, *Morehouse*: between Mer Rouge and Bonita; Jeff Barnhill (ph, p. 29).

One (2018-065) on 21 October 2018, *Red River*: Mansfield, 2617-2871 Hwy. 1, N32.127 °, W93.479 °; Chris Merritt (ph, p. 29).

**Harris's Hawk** (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

One adult (2000-098) on 26 December 2000 and presumably the same bird on 4 January 2001, *Ascension*: north side of Hwy. 61 about 1/2 mi. W intersection with Motavit Rd.; **Jay V. Huner**, and B. Mac Myers III (ph) and Phillip A. Wallace (ph). Jennifer P. Coulson provided insights about captive origin.

One adult (2018-074) on 22 October-28 November 2018, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Lake Forest Blvd. off Read Blvd.; **Glenn Ousset** (ph, p. 29) and James W. Beck (ph). This record is accepted Origin Hypothetical.

One adult (2019-002) on 7 January 2019, *Calcasieu*: Ellis Moss Rd., S Sulphur; Vicki Sensat (ph, p. 29).

**White-tailed Hawk** (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

One sub-adult (2018-011) on 11 January 2018, *Calcasieu*: immediately east on Harris Rd. at the intersections of Harris Mott, Harris, Metzger, and Fruge roads; Jay V. Huner (ph, p. 30). This record may pertain to same adult (2017-045) present in this general vicinity during Fall 2017.

One immature (2018-026) on 26 March 2018, *Cameron*: Sabine Pass, immediately E Texas/Louisiana border along Hwy. 82, at pull-off on the north side of the road that allows for boat access and fishing on the Sabine River (N29.7691 °, W93.8894 °; Cameron L. Rutt (ph, p. 30).

One adult (2018-076) on 16-26 December 2018, *Cameron/Calcasieu*: Ward Line and Cox roads; **Jim Delahoussaye** and **Brad Moon** (ph only, p. 30), J. V. Remsen (ph), and Phillip A. Wallace (ph). Photo-documented reports in eBird (presumably same bird) to 10 January 2019. See: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51542450>.

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

One light morph immature (2018-022) on 13-17 February 2018, *East Carroll*: junction of Hwy. 65 and Washington Rd., N32.6557801 °, W91.181792 °; **J. V. Remsen** (ph), William Matthews (ph), John K. Dillon (ph, p. 30), Charles E. Lyon (ph, p. 30), and Paul E. Conover (ph). Photo-documented reports in eBird to 21 February 2018 (see: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S43077195>).

One light morph immature (2019-013) on 5 March 2019, *Cameron*: Hwy. 27 (1130 Marshall St.) E of the Cameron ferry at N29.7855 °, W93.2790 °; Kathleen O'Shaughnessy (ph, p. 30).

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

One light morph juvenile (2018-086) on 27 October 2018, *Cameron*: Lacassine NWR Pool Unit, just N refuge boundary and E Illinois Plant Rd.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 30) and Steven W. Cardiff.



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

One (2018-036) on 25 April 2018, *Jefferson*: Hwy. 1 N Caminada Pass Bridge; Maureen Ellis (ph, p. 30).

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

One (1999-035) on 27 November 1999, *Cameron*: W Johnsons Bayou, chenier S Garner Ridge; Peter H. Yaukey.

One (2004-033) on 28 February 2004, *Calcasieu*: E Hwy. 27, S Lionel Derouen Rd.; Joseph P. Kleiman.

One immature (2004-028) on 30 April 2004, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou; B. Mac Myers III.

Crested Caracara was removed from the Review List on 8 September 2007.

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

Two (2004-034) on 2 January 2004, *Plaquemines*: across Hwy. 23 at Fort Jackson; Phillip A. Wallace.

One (2018-009) on 6 January 2018, *Plaquemines*: Stella Plantation, east bank Mississippi River, approx. 1.5 mi. downriver from Belle Chase ferry landing; J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 31) and Robert C. Dobbs (ph). See also <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S41696508>.

**Great Kiskadee** (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

One presumed adult (2016-067) on 30 May 2016, *Cameron*: off Trosclair Rd., PR-357, approx. 4 mi. W Oak Grove; Devin Bosler.

Great Kiskadee was removed from the Review List on 10 March 2018.

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

One (2004-029) on 1 May 2004, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; B. Mac Myers III.

One (2017-002) on 2 September 2017, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, Southside Regional Park (East Regional Library Park), 221 La Neuville Rd; Patricia Rosel (ph., p. 31) and Scott France (ph., p. 31).

One immature (2019-008) on 28 January 2019, *Jefferson Davis*: North Adams St. and Pecan Orchard Rd., N30.26098°, W92.82161°; Ken Oeser (ph, p. 31). Originally submitted as a Couch's, because this bird was not heard and photos were inadequate to determine species identification, all Members accepted this individual as 'complex.'

**Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

One (2004-074) on 25 April 2004, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Rd. (Hwy. 3090), north end of back ridge; Robert D. Purrington.

One (2018-030) on 2 May 2018, *Terrebonne*: Isles Dernieres, Whiskey Island; Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 31).

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savanna*)

Two, including a male with definitive primaries (2018-077) and a shorter-tailed individual/female on 17 December 2018-11 January 2019, *Calcasieu*: mainly in vicinity of intersection of Hwy. 397 and Ward Line Rd. NE of Sweet Lake (N30.067342, W93.121839); **Irvin Louque** (ph, p. 31), Andrew From (p. 19), Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 23 and 31) and Steven W. Cardiff (ph). Male with definitive primaries enabled this bird to be identified as different from the next record and likely of the subspecies *monachus*. This is the sixth state occurrence. Photo-documented reports in eBird extend date range to 11 January 2019 (see: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51549712>).

One male with definitive primaries (2019-003) on 12-27 January 2019, *Calcasieu*: SE Vinton, wandering over area in vicinity of intersection of and along Fabacher Rd. and Hwy. 108; **David Booth**, Vicki Sensat (ph, p. 31), Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 23) and Steven W. Cardiff (ph), and Thomas Finnie (ph only, p. 31). Based on pattern of primary tips, very long tail, pale back, and fresh plumage, this male appears to represent the expected subspecies *monachus*. This is the seventh state occurrence. Photo-documented reports in eBird to 3 February 2019 (see: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52392406>).

**Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)**

One (2019-006) on 26 January-10 February 2019, *Plaquemines*: Diamond, Diamond Park Recreation Area; **J. V. Remsen** (ph, p. 32), Robert C. Dobbs (ph, audio), James W. Beck (ph). Reportedly first located by Michelle McLindon. This is the third state occurrence. Photo-documented reports in eBird to 22 March 2019 (see: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S54115480>).

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

One (1993-085) on 22 October 1993, *Cameron*: Hackberry Ridge, 2 mi. WSW Johnsons Bayou School; Nancy Bird and Louis Debetaz.

One (2008-078) on 15 November 2008-20 February 2009, *Vermilion*: east side of Sham's Rd. approx. 1/4 mi. N intersection with Gladu Rd. and about 1 mi. W Hwy. 35; Devin Bosler (ph, p. 32), Jay V. Huner, Justin Bosler (ph only), and John P. Sevenair. This is likely 2007-052 (LBRC Report 2008) returning for its second winter. Reportedly found on 8 November 2008 by Gary Broussard, with a last observed date of 22 February 2009.

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

One (2004-082) on 18 December 2004, *Cameron*: Cameron, entrance road to West Jetty before camps; B. Mac Myers III.

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

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

One (2004-073) on 3 May 2004, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract; Robert D. Purrington.

One (2018-037) on 29 April 2018, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Grand Isle State Park; Casey Wright (ph, p. 32).

Reportedly seen previously by Cathy DiSalvo, Joan Garvey, and Mark Meunier on 27 April 2018: see <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S45049217>.

One heard only (2018-038) on 10 June 2018, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 102 Goodwood Circle, 2.4 km N Milton; Erik I. Johnson (audio).

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

Two, pair by behavior (2004-077) on 5 May 2004, *Cameron*: east side Hwy. 82 bridge over Sabine River; Hubert Hervey.

Cave Swallow was removed from the Review List on 16 March 2013.

**Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)**

One (2017-099) present from October 2017-24 March 2018, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, Longwood Dr.; **Ronlyn A. Domingue** (ph), Bud Snowden (ph only, p. 32), J. V. Remsen (ph only, p. 32), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) & Steven W. Cardiff (ph), Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 32), Erik I. Johnson (ph), Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler (ph only), James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. (ph), James Holmes (ph only), and Michael Musumeche (ph). This is the third accepted state occurrence; see also p. 32. Photo-documented reports in eBird to 11 April 2018 (see: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44465346>).

**Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)**

One (2018-027) on 4 March 2018, *Calcasieu*: Ellis Moss Rd.; Vicki Sensat (ph, p. 32).

One (2018-070) on 10 November 2018, *Orleans*: New Orleans, South Point; Peter H. Yaukey (notes and sketch, right).



**Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)**

Evening Grosbeak was added to the Review List on 7 September 1996 but the LBRC had never reviewed any records that pre-dated that addition. The LSUMNS study skin records (photo p. 14) are the first reviewed. Additional LSUMNS fluid-preserved (two from 1984) and skeletal (six: three from 1969, one from 1970, two without dates likely are from invasion years 1972 and 1984) preps were not included in this initial review. Another

**Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) - cont.

fluid-preserved prep from 12 January 1969 was exchanged with another museum (deaccessioned).

One male (1962-010) on 14 January 1962, *Ouachita*: West Monroe; James B. Avant (LSUMZ 27673)

One female (1962-011) on 15 April 1962, *Natchitoches*: Natchitoches; Douglas A. Lancaster (LSUMZ 27799) and Harold Cleveland (HC 180).

One male (1969-007) on 23 January 1969, *Livingston*: Denham Springs; John P. O'Neill (JPO 3414; LSUMZ 64959).

One female (1969-008) on 23 January 1969, *Livingston*: Denham Springs; John P. O'Neill (JPO 3413; LSUMZ 64960).

One female (1969-009) on 23 January 1969, *Livingston*: Denham Springs; David L. Pearson (LSUMZ 64961).

One male (1972-016) on 10 December 1972, *Washington*: Varnado; Wilby Seal (LSUMZ 72119) and P. Bruner (PB 545).

One female (1972-017) on 10 December 1972, *Avoyelles*: 1.5 mi. S Mansura; Joseph Lemoine (LSUMZ 155685) and Louis Debetaz (LB 12).

One female (1973-014) on 10 February 1973, *Pointe Coupee*: False River; P. Bruner (LSUMZ 73349, PB 600).

One male (1978-036) on 23 March 1978, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 655 Ursuline Dr.; J. William Eley (LSUMZ 73349, JWE 623).

One male (1984-068) on 13 February 1984, *West Feliciana*: 3.7 mi ENE Star Hill; J. Gary H. Rosenberg (LSUMZ 117781, GHR 1949).

One female (1984-069) on 1 March 1984, *East Baton Rouge*: Greenwell Springs Rd.; J. T. Fairchild (LSUMZ 118898) and Nedra K. Klein (NKK 37).

One female (1984-070) on 8 April 1984, *East Baton Rouge*: Greenwell Springs Rd. near Hooper Rd.; J. T. Fairchild (LSUMZ 118898) and Tristan J. Davis (TJD 3307).

One female (1984-071) on 10 April 1984, *East Baton Rouge*: Greenwell Springs Rd. near Hooper Rd.; J. T. Fairchild (LSUMZ 117783) and Tristan J. Davis (TJD 3330).

One female (1986-01) on 8 April 1986, *East Baton Rouge*: intersection of Greenwell Springs Rd. and Hooper Rd.; J. T. Fairchild (LSUMZ 117783) and Tristan J. Davis (TJD 3330).

One male (1986-075) on 19 February 1986, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 134183; skeletal prep and spread wing; SWC 4034).



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

One adult (2011-156) on 14 December 2011, *Acadia*: Domingue Rd. (Hwy. 92) just W Leger Rd., N30.11891°, W92.349204°; Patti Holland.

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

One adult female (2019-005) on 13 January 2019, *Vermilion*: Pecan Island; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 33) and **Paul Conover** (ph).

Two adults, male and female (2019-010) on 21-25 January 2019, *Cameron*: Grand Chenier, N 29.723°, W 92.786°; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 33), **Paul Conover** (ph, p. 33), Andrew From, and Robert C. Dobbs (ph, audio).

**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizelloides arborea*)



Two, adult male and adult female (1979-036) on 10 February 1979, *Claiborne*: approx. 9 mi. N Haynesville, N32.983333°, W92.88333°; Larry R. Raymond and Don B. Shepard (ph of specimens, left) submitted the report, and D. Kendrick (DK 3 and 4; specimens are archived at the Louisiana Tech University, Ruston). This flock was originally discovered by the landowner, John Harson, who reported the birds to Louisiana Tech University personnel (*fide* John K. Dillon). This represents the first



**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizelloides arborea*) - cont.

LBRC-accepted state occurrence, and these are the only known specimens for Louisiana; Lowery (1974) reported six occurrences for the state on which basis the species was retained on the state list following the LBRC's Lowery review.

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

One female (2017-058) on 7 November 2017, *Jefferson*: Harahan, 27 Colonial Ln.; Lizette Wroten (ph, p. 33).

One adult male (2018-010) on 9 January 2018, *Jefferson*: Mississippi River batture at mile marker 310 in Harahan behind Colonial Oaks (defunct) golf course; Joan Garvey (ph, 33). Reportedly found by Lizette Wroten.

One female (2018-084) on 11 January 2018, *Jefferson*: Mississippi River batture at mile marker 310 in Harahan behind Colonial Oaks (defunct) golf course; Cathy DiSalvo (ph, p.33). Reportedly found by Lizette Wroten.

One adult male (2018-016) on 18 January 2018, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 5655 Hickory Ridge Blvd.; Mark Pethke (ph, p.33).

One adult male (2018-017) from 21 January-23 February 2018, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 105 Hal Dr.; **Rose Must** and Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p.33).

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

One (2018-028) on 9-20 March and present to 16 April 2018, *Orleans*: New Orleans, City Park, Couturie Forest; James W. Beck (ph, p.34), Janine Robin, J. V. Remsen (ph only), James F. (Jim) Holmes Jr. (audio at: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S43886305>), Devin Bosler, and Justin Bosler (ph).

**Tropical X Northern Parula** (*Setophaga pitayumi X S. americana*)

One male (2017-004) on 22 January-5 March 2017, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, Austin Village South subdivision; Patricia Rosel and Scott France (ph; p. 34; also see: <https://ebird.org/gbbc/view/checklist/S34814377>).

One immature male (2019-009) on 13 January 2019, *Vermilion*: Veazey Road X Freshwater City Road; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 34), **Paul E. Conover** (LSUMZ), and Donna L. Dittmann (DLD 11560; photo, p. 34).

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

One (2017-016) on 9 April 2017, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles; Charlotte Chehotsky (ph, p.34).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

One female (2004-032) on 11 January 2004, *Orleans*: New Orleans, just outside sewage treatment plant next to Crescent Acres Dump; Phillip A. Wallace.

One immature (2019-015) on 7 January 2019, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 105 Hal Dr. (Must residence); Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 34). Reportedly discovered by Rose Must and last observed by her 11 April 2019. Photo-documented reports in eBird range from 6 January 2019 (<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51386171>) to 19 February 2019 (<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52943969>).

**UNACCEPTED RECORDS: IDENTIFICATION**

The following 31 records were not accepted based on identification. A brief explanation how the LBRC reached this decision follows each entry. Members evaluate details and circumstances using documentation provided to decide whether a record rises to a level necessary for acceptance. Evaluation of records is difficult and some 'good records' may not be accepted; many LBRC decisions are not unanimous: see LBRC Bylaws V. F. (10) for voting criteria: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/bylaws.htm>. Records may be reexamined in the future.

**White-winged Scoter** (*Melanitta deglandi*)

One first-spring male (2008-076) on 13 April 2008, *Cameron*: off Broussard Beach, approx. 2 mi. SE Cameron (ph). This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting, with Members evaluating the

**White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) - cont.**

pros (basic field marks described, white eye patch visible in photo, and description mentions scoter with white wing patches) and cons (superficial description, inconsistencies in the description, white head patches could point to a Surf Scoter, photo not diagnostic, etc.) of the observer's written description. Ultimately, Members were concerned by conflicts in the description, especially description of head pattern. All Members voted to not accept.

One (2019-007) on 9 February 2019, *Cameron*: Rockefeller Refuge, between Price Lake Unit and Unit 5. Although the observer was reportedly experienced with this species, a majority of Members agreed that the description lacked necessary detail to support identification and separation from other duck species.

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

One (2017-095) on 8 December 2017, *Rapides*: Kincaid Lake, west end of dam. All Members believed that the observer probably did see a Long-tailed Duck, but the description and photo did not provide adequate support for the record.

Two males (2010-095) on 15 December 2010, *Terrebonne*: Pelican Lake. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Members evaluated the report's circumstances, noting that it was also a very brief sighting with a resulting superficial description, and that it reportedly involved two adult males. Most troubling was the superficial description, lack of discussion of similar species, and, ultimately, that the observer probably didn't realize how rare the species was and did not submit a report until 1 ½ months later. We looked at a range of photos on the internet and reviewed the observer's credentials. Ultimately, only two Members voted to accept.

**Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauri*)**

Two adults (2000-046) on 31 December 2000, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, south side City Park Lake. This is the only report from this location during the winter of 2000-2001. The identification was based primarily on probability that Vaux's was the default swift species at this time of the year. The resulting description was relatively superficial and subjective, resulting in an unanimous vote not to accept.

Unknown number ("greater than six"; 2011-069) on multiple dates between 2 March and 13 April 2011, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, vicinity Arsenal Park and Spanish Town in vicinity of 770 Lakeland Dr. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Members in favor of the identification emphasized that vocalizations were heard, the birds engaged in flight displays, the observer had previous experience with Vaux's in the West and at this location during winter, and that Chimney Swifts were present for comparison during some of the observations. Dissenting Members were concerned with the generally poor documentation and superficial description that did not satisfactorily eliminate Chimney Swift. Members also discussed that this would represent the only accepted occurrence for the winter 2010-2011. All Members believed that it was highly likely that Vaux's was involved but, ultimately, half of the Members were not convinced that the report met the threshold for acceptance.

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

One adult female (2009-007) banded (C05733) on 5 February 2009, *Lafayette*: Milton, residence of Elaine Bourque. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. This bird was identified as an Allen's in the hand during banding, measurements indicated that species except for an unusually wide central rectrix (R1), and the identification had been endorsed by Nancy L. Newfield. However, problematic for some Members were an apparent notch on R2 and the lack of a tail length measurement. Erik I. Johnson argued that the notched rectrix 2 was likely a photographic artifact, but some Members were not swayed and believed the inconsistencies better pointed toward a potential hybrid. A vote was taken and four Members voted not to accept.

One adult male (2009-008) banded (C05728) on 22 January 2009, *Lafayette*: Lafayette (ph). This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. This bird was identified as an Allen's in the hand during banding and was overall typical of an adult male Allen's in terms of plumage and measurements except for a notch on rectrix (R) 2. Discussion centered on the notched R2 and whether this could be the result of individual variation versus hybrid ancestry. Ultimately, the potential hybrid hypothesis prevailed, with only one Member voting to accept.

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

One (2017-024) on 13 May 2017, *Cameron*: marsh just south Conway LeBleu Memorial (Gibbstown) Bridge on Hwy. 27. Although the description was suggestive, circumstances (brief view from moving car) and the inexperience of the observer with this species resulted in all Members voting not to support this report.

One (2017-098) on 26 December 2017, *St. John the Baptist*: approx. 1/2 mi. N Peavine Rd. along Old Hwy. 51 at Maurepas Swamp WMA trailhead. Although possibly correctly identified, all Members were concerned by the circumstances: brief observation without binoculars as the bird flew across a parking lot surrounded by areas not considered Black Rail habitat.

One (2017-100) on 17 November 2017, *Cameron*: East Jetty Woods. This was a very brief heard-only encounter involving a partial vocalization. Although quite likely involving this species, most Members believed that it was best left as unaccepted due to the brevity of the encounter and that the observer reported not being 100% confident.

**Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)**

Five (2018-059) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 6/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.287°, W89.078° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). This report received a mixed vote following the second circulation with a majority of Members voting not to accept based on the brief description that did not adequately address Red Phalarope. Those voting to accept believed that the description was adequate given that Red-necked Phalarope is the “default” pelagic species in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)**

One in non-breeding plumage (1998-109) on 10 October 1998, *Jefferson*: Metairie, Lake Pontchartrain shoreline at Elmwood Canal at end Waverly Dr. Although the description seemed superficially better for Red than Red-necked phalarope, Members noted that a reported photograph was unaccounted for, and the observer seemed less than 100% confident in the identification. Most Members believed that the documentation was inadequate to support what would have been only the fourth state occurrence.

One in juvenile plumage (2004-076) on 6 May 2004, *Vermilion*: rice field on north side Hwy. 693 approx. 1.09 mi. W intersection of Hwy. 82 and approx. 0.36 mi. W intersection of Hwys. 693 X 694. The description did not adequately support the identification of this potential fourth or fifth state occurrence.

**Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

One definitive basic or delayed light morph immature (2018-041) on 10 July 2018, *Cameron*: Holly Beach (N29.7687°, W93.4423°). All Members agreed that, given the difficulties of jaeger identification and that this would be an unprecedented date for a species that has only been documented a few times, it would have been necessary to have photo documentation. The circumstances of the observation were less than optimal, so it's understandable that the description was subjective and lacks a convincing combination of diagnostic characters.

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

One first-cycle immature (2018-003) on 4 January 2018, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge Dump, West Irene Rd. Although photos were obtained, all Members agreed that they did not allow for elimination of a superficially similar Herring Gull.

**Iceland (Thayer's) Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*)**

One adult (2007-101) on 27 May 2007, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 along coast (Holly Beach). All Members agreed that the brief description, which was primarily based on perceived iris color, was inadequate to support the identification. The report lacked details about circumstances (distance, lighting), relative size, and primary pattern necessary to support identification of subspecies *thayeri*.



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

One first winter (2004-004) on 22 December 2004, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi. E Fourchon Rd. After a second circulation most Members agreed that the description was relatively superficial and that the report did not discuss how a hybrid or a worn/bleached Herring Gull was excluded. Without photographic corroboration to bolster the written description, the record was considered unsatisfactory.

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

One first-cycle immature (2016-031) on 1 October 2016, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach opposite Willow Island, 5 mi. E Cameron, N29.776585°, W93.229628° (ph). This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. A series of photos showed a bird that was at least superficially very similar to a juvenile Great Black-backed (overall size/proportions, apparent huge bill, and plumage pattern), with Herring and Lesser Black-backed present for comparisons. However, photo lighting conditions were poor and resulted in different interpretations of characters by different Members. In some photos, overall plumage, especially face pattern and back/wing mottling, and overall shape seemed more suggestive of a large Lesser Black-backed Gull, possibly indicating that the bird was a hybrid. Ultimately, all but two Members could not support an identification as a pure Great Black-backed Gull.

### **Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

One adult in breeding plumage (2018-042) on 20 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/20/18 Leg 3/20 start of survey at N26.751°, W90.307° (heading SE towards Key West). The observer's details did not include distance or duration of the observation. All Members stressed that separation from Common Tern was not a trivial identification challenge, and that Arctic Tern is at best casual in the Gulf of Mexico in fall because the species follows an eastern Atlantic migration route. A majority of Members were unconvinced of the written details and emphasized that photos would have been required to clinch the identification.

### **Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*)**

One adult (2017-078) on 22 December 2017, *Gulf of Mexico*: open ocean, exact location unknown but somewhere north of N25.777590°, W89.869890°. All Members agreed that the submitted documentation was insufficient for acceptance, especially for a winter occurrence from a vague location.

One adult (2018-043) on 20 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/20/18 Leg 3/20 start of survey at N26.751°, W90.307° (heading SE towards Key West). All Members were in agreement that circumstances (brief observation at 0.5 mi. distance) did not allow adequate studies and that the resulting superficial description was not sufficient for acceptance.

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

One (2017-077) on 22 December 2017, *Gulf of Mexico*: open ocean, exact location unknown but somewhere north of N25.777590°, W89.869890°. Most Members were unwilling to accept this report without a specified location, and also were wary of a winter observation without photographic support.

### **Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)**

One (2018-058) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 13/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US Start: N26.663°, W89.711° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). All Members agreed that the brief, distant observation, resulting brief description of a bird on the water, and failure to convincingly eliminate other superficially similar species such as Cory's Shearwater and Pomarine Jaeger did not warrant acceptance.

### **Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)**

One (2017-075) on 22 December 2017, *Gulf of Mexico*: open ocean, exact location unknown but somewhere north of N25.777590°, W89.869890°. Although most Members believed that the bird was probably correctly identified, all were in agreement that this report could not be accepted without a specified location.

**Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) - cont.**

One (2018-046) on 20 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/20/18 Leg 5/20 Start: N26.643°, W90.081° (heading SE towards Key West); this same bird was also seen at the start of Leg 4. Members found two different problems with this record. First, the observer reported this individual on two different long forms, because the reporter opted to report sightings seen on survey legs instead of as an exact locality (relevant to records below.) The LBRC encourages observers to report pelagic species with an actual locality rather than in a time block or distance transect because an exact locality (GPS coordinates) provides more useful information. Second, and more importantly, the individual was distant and not well seen and the observer could not adequately separate similar species.

Two (2018-045) on 20 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/20/18 Leg 4/20 start: N26.696°, W90.193° (heading SE towards Key West). See above comments for 2018-046.

One (2018-048) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 2/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start N26.039°, W88.689° (heading northwest towards Galveston). This same bird was also seen at the start of Leg 5. See above comments for 2018-046.

One (2018-050) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 4/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.166°, W88.897° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). See above comments for 2018-046.

One (2018-051) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 5/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.223°, W88.992° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). See above comments for 2018-046.

One (2018-052) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 6/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.287°, W89.078° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). See above comments for 2018-046.

Two (2018-054) on 25 August 2018, *Gulf of Mexico*: Carnival Breeze Cruise 8/25/18 Leg 8/30, off Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, US start: N26.39°, W89.266° (heading Northwest towards Galveston). See above comments for 2018-046.

**Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)**

One adult male (2017-029) on 8 June 2017, *Gulf of Mexico*: 128 mi. S Cameron, West Cameron Block 643 oil platform. Most Members agreed that the details were not adequate for acceptance.

Three, two adults, one immature (2017-032) on 28-29 June 2017, *Plaquemines*: river mile 3, Southwest Pass of Mississippi River. As was the case for the previous report, Members believed these birds were most likely correctly identified, but the details were minimal and did not justify acceptance.

Two, adult and sub-adult (2017-076) on 22 December 2017, *Gulf of Mexico*: open ocean, exact location unknown but somewhere north of N25.777590°, W89.869890° (ph). Although correctly identified, the lack of a specific location other than "somewhere within 190 nmi. of the coast" was considered grounds for non-acceptance and gave Members a legitimate reason to question whether the observation was actually within Louisiana waters.

**Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*)**

One adult (2016-034) on 22 October 2016, *Gulf of Mexico*: from cruise ship at N26.4518°, W91.0694°. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The description was suggestive for the species (including comments on foot color and facial skin coloration) and the observer reported being experienced with Red-footed Booby. However, given that this would represent just the fourth Louisiana occurrence, the generally rudimentary description and lack of supporting photos ultimately caused all but one Member to not accept.



LBRC 2019-003: Fork-tailed Flycatcher, shorter-tailed individual, see p. 12, photo taken on 20 Dec. 2018 by Andrew From

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

One adult (2017-010) on 20 March 2017, *Jefferson*: Marrero. As noted on the report form, the observer was not 100% confident of the identification because the tail was not well seen. The report of golden coloration on the hackles could have been an artifact of the light. All Members agreed that an early spring Golden Eagle in southeast Louisiana would have required more robust documentation.

One immature (2018-067) on 31 October 2018, *Cameron*: Lacassine NWR Pool Unit, W of intersection of Illinois Plant Rd. All Members agreed that the observer did not rule out immature Bald Eagle and did not provide enough diagnostic evidence to support Golden Eagle.

**Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)**

One adult (2017-26) on 28 October 2017, *Cameron*: Hwy. 27 just S Holly Beach water tower. This report was initially circulated with accepted photo-documented LBRC 2017-049 because it was found nearby and slightly later on the same day. However, some Members believed that it should be reviewed separately and it was subsequently separated and numbered, then re-circulated. Only one of the two observers submitted a report. The observation was very brief, and both of the observers likely assumed that better documentation was not needed because their sighting presumably involved the same hawk photographed earlier in the day. Unfortunately, the description for this record was "dark brown large hawk." No other supporting identification characters were observed by the submitting observer. All Members agreed that such a description was inadequate to support the identification or to confirm that this report involved the same individual as LBRC 2017-049 (*21st Report of the LBRC*).

**Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)**

One light morph adult (2018-031) on 17 March 2018, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, Louisiana Ave. at Pont Des Mouton. All Members agreed that the brief, naked-eye observation at some distance of a moving bird compounded by a correspondingly superficial description and lack of photos did not provide documentation adequate for a first state occurrence.

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

One dark morph (2019-004) on 14 January 2019, *Vermilion*: parking lot at Pine Island Duck Club at the terminus of Pine Island Rd. N29.855147°, W92.410125°. Although other *Buteo* species with dark morphs, such as Ferruginous and Swainson's, were briefly mentioned in the report, all Members agreed that the description was too brief to overcome concerns regarding potential confusion with dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk, and especially dark subspecies *harlani*. Members also suspected identification was primarily based on one field mark, also present in some Red-taileds. Identification of dark *Buteo* is difficult under less than optimal field conditions such as this relatively brief fly-by encounter.

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

One (2011-035) on 25 January 2011, *Jefferson*: Metairie. This record went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The reporting observer is experienced and even mentioned Bell's characteristic "tail-flipping" behavior. But, some other aspects of the description, circumstances of the observation, and the location in suburban habitat were of great enough concern that all Members were inclined not to accept the report.

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

One (2017-046) on 9 October 2017, *Orleans*: New Orleans, City Park, Couturie Forest (ph). Identified from a single photograph after-the-fact, the photo was suggestive but most Members agreed that a Red-eyed Vireo with a "part" or missing feathers (mimicking a dark malar) could not be eliminated. Other characters of the head pattern also seemed to better fit Red-eyed Vireo. All Members agreed that a more extensive series of photos would have been required to support an inland Black-whiskered Vireo in October.



**McCown's Longspur** (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*)

One (2017-081) on 28 December 2017, *St. Landry*: Botany Bay Road at Olivier Farms. Following a second circulation, a majority of Members believed that the brief views, possible confusion with Chestnut-collared Longspur, and lack of photographs were not sufficient for acceptance of this potential third state occurrence.

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

One heard only (2019-001) on 1 January 2019, *Claiborne*: intersection of Mulnix Switch and Tulip roads, near the town of Athens. All Members agreed that, because of the possibility of other species mimicking a Spotted Towhee, or the possibility of an Eastern Towhee that had learned the "wrong" call, or the possibility of an Eastern X Spotted hybrid, a heard-only report of this species was not satisfactory.

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cucullatus*)

One adult male (2018-039) on 16 June 2018, *Cameron*: Grand Chenier, Rockefeller Refuge, Price Lake Rd. All Members agreed that the circumstances of the observation (brief sighting of a bird seen in flight only) did not permit the amount of careful study that would be required for acceptance of a fifth state occurrence.

**Scott's Oriole** (*Icterus parisorum*)

One male (2017-020) on 27 April 2017, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, Peveto Woods Sanctuary; (ph). All Members believed that the photo best illustrated a male Baltimore Oriole. The more yellowish color of the plumage shown in the image was either aberrant plumage or a lighting/photo artifact. Otherwise, the overall plumage pattern was wrong for Scott's, especially the tail.

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

One adult male (1999-030) on 16 April 1999, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, Bobby Santini's yard. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2015 Annual Meeting but was inadvertently not included in the 18<sup>th</sup> Report of the LBRC. Three Members believed that the documentation provided did not adequately support acceptance.

One male (2018-069) on 10 November 2018, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Grilletta Tract parking lot; (ph). All Members agreed that the photographs did not support identification of this species because Bronzed Cowbird was not satisfactorily eliminated.

**Bachman's Warbler** (*Vermivora bachmani*)

One adult female (2004-079) on 27 September and 4 October 2004, *St. Tammany*: Slidell. The report was submitted by an observer who was obviously not yet very experienced with warbler identification. A number of superficially similar and much more likely species were not convincingly eliminated from consideration.

**Virginia's Warbler** (*Leiothlypis virginiae*)

One immature (1989-152) on 24 November 1989, *Cameron*: Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W Johnsons Bayou School. All but two Members believed that the combination of poor viewing conditions late in the day, duration of observation (which included only brief looks while the warbler foraged deep within acacia bushes), the observers' descriptions, and the lack of photos were grounds for not accepting what would have represented a second state occurrence. The bird was not relocated the following day but instead a Lucy's Warbler (1989-160; 7<sup>th</sup> Report of the LBRC) was well-documented there beginning on 25 November 1989. Those same dissenting Members were not inclined to accept a 'two bird hypothesis,' instead believing that perhaps the Lucy's was the bird poorly observed and believed to be a Virginia's on 24 November 1989. This report was resolved in 1992 but was inadvertently not included in the 7<sup>th</sup> Report of the LBRC or subsequent reports. This record was published in *American Birds* V. 44, N. 1, p. 108.

**Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)**

One adult male (2011-158) on 21-22 September 2011, *Lafourche*: Lockport. This report went to a Discussion vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. At face-value this report included a brief but seemingly adequate description of an adult male Black-headed Grosbeak, including mention of rufous up onto the collar. An additional point in favor of this report was that another adult male was photographed in *Jefferson* on 20 September 2011. However, there are still very few well-documented early fall occurrences, the observer was inexperienced, and Members discussed how common it is for beginners to mis-identify supposedly “unmistakable” species. Members agreed that this was a tough call, but were divided in their opinions and the final vote was 4-4.

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

One adult male (2003-051) on 18 May 2003, *St. Tammany*: Slidell, Ruby's Natural Foods, 1260-1336 Hwy. 190. All Members agreed that the circumstances of the observation and description did not warrant acceptance of a potential the fifth state occurrence.

**UNACCEPTED RECORDS: ORIGIN**

**White-cheeked Pintail (*Anas bahamensis*)**

One juvenile female (2017-033) on 25 July 2017, *Cameron*: Rockefeller Refuge; (ph). This would represent the first state occurrence. An in-hand photo was provided and the identification was not in doubt. However, the one photo did not show important parts (wing tips, tail, legs/feet) of the bird that might show signs of captivity, and there was no discussion of possible captive origin. The burden of proof is on reporting observers to provide the level of detail necessary for the LBRC to make an informed decision about probability of wild or captive origin. This species is commonly sold and commonly kept in captivity in the USA (Howell et al. in *Rare Birds* consider it “popular in captivity”). There are enough reported escapes of exotic waterfowl detected in Louisiana that extreme caution is advisable when considering a potential vagrant species. For species commonly kept in captivity, a wild-banded individual is probably required to support natural origin.

*Corrigenda*

**In the 9<sup>th</sup> Report**, latitude and longitude for the following records is incorrect and should read:

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

One immature female (1998-133) on 13 October 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: about 24 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River, N28.649667°, W89.0775°.

**Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)**

One immature female (1998-131) on 13 October 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: about 24 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River, N28.649667°, W89.0775°.

**Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*)**

One male (98-130) in subadult plumage on 13 Oct 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: about 44 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River, N28.344833°, W89.132833°.

One immature male (98-132) on 13 Oct 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: about 40 mi. S of South Pass Mississippi River; N28.403333°, W89.14617°.

**In the 10<sup>th</sup> Report**, LBRC numbers were re-assigned to reflect the year of the record's occurrence and not that of the record's submission. LBRC 1989-64, Lesser Black-backed Gull was incorrectly changed to 1989-064, when in fact the date of occurrence was 16 October 1988 (*not* 1986). The correct number becomes 1988-126.

**In the 19<sup>th</sup> Report**, duplication of published record 2010-138; correct number is 2010-136, which was accepted in the 14<sup>th</sup> report:

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

One male (2010-136) on 27 April 2010, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary.

**In the 21<sup>st</sup> Report**, combine LBRC 2015-079 with 2015-078 and change entry to read:

**Cinnamon Teal** (*Spatula cyanoptera*)

One adult male (2015-078) on 1-2 January 2015, *Cameron*: Cameron Prairie NWR, Pintail Loop; **Erik I. Johnson** (ph, p. 22) and Jay V. Huner. A second individual was possibly a hybrid- the flanks were dull and noticeably spotted, and there was a whitish patch toward the vent.

Page 31.

In the Photo **Showcase 10: Kingbirds through vireos**, the number of records of Fork-tailed Flycatcher should say 4th and 5th (not 5th and 6th).

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### Acknowledgments

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\* \* \* \*

PDFs of LBRC Reports can be found here: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7agymb5qu9ljh2v/AAA2Pp\\_JrIiuATtAoJ4\\_9YVba?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7agymb5qu9ljh2v/AAA2Pp_JrIiuATtAoJ4_9YVba?dl=0)



LBRC 2019-003  
Fork-tailed Flycatcher  
See p. 12, photo taken of  
male on 27 Jan. 2019 by  
Donna L. Dittmann



The LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of submitted photographs can be showcased in the Annual Newsletter and LBRC Report. Due to space limitations, photographs appearing in the LBRC Showcase pages are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons including (and these are well-represented herein): 1) to provide an image of the individual bird(s) accepted (whether by the person who found the bird, a photo taken within the record's date range of occurrence, or from the last day the bird was observed); 2) illustrate the importance of photographic documentation; 3) show the range of photographic images submitted to the LBRC for documentation (this page for example); 4) stress the importance of *all photographs* to the documentation process - whether or not they are blurry (but species still recognizable) or tack sharp. A grainy or poorly exposed photo can often be as useful as one that is beautifully composed and professional-appearing; and finally, 5) as a means to encourage observers to carry a camera because, with practice, most observers can produce fine images of birds. And remember, even if others are photographing the same bird, their photos may not come out, be lost, or you can capture some aspect of the bird not captured by others - always have your camera handy or you might miss that "record" shot. The LBRC is very appreciative of the time and effort observers have expended to submit photo and written documentation to the Committee.

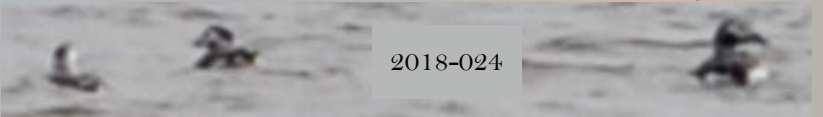
Please keep up the good work!

## Showcase I: Ducks through nighthawk

These White-winged Scoter photos show the full range of identifiable quality (as mentioned left). Paul E. Conover photographed two fly-bys (2018-071 and 2018-072, right) at Broussard Beach, Cameron, 10 November 2018. Another (2018-082) on the water there 18 November 2018 was a bit more cooperative (below left). Kathy Rhodes' discovery (2019-014) in Terrebonne, 5 March 2019 (below right) put on the best show.



Accepted Long-tailed Ducks included an amazing three photographed (2018-024, below) by Robert C. Dobbs at Rutherford Beach, 17 February 2018, and a more photogenic stake-out (2018-034, below left, in front of Lesser Scaup) documented by Thomas Finnie on 30 March 2018 at Cameron's East Jetty.



A very exciting find was LA's 5th Masked Duck (2018-040) near Shreveport. A female, here (below) photographed by Jacob Kraemer, 26 June 2018, it was the first 'chaseable' Masked Duck since 1970 and a first for northern LA!



Photos of both accepted Lesser Nighthawks show placement of the white primary patch: Jon Wise captured this male (2017-015, left) on 8 April 2017 at Grand Isle, and "quickdraw" Robert C. Dobbs obtained proof of this diurnal flyby



male (2018-032, right), at Whiskey Island, 26 March 2018.





## Showcase 2: Vaux's Swift through Limpkin

Baton Rouge's wintering Vaux's Swifts (2018-081) were a challenge to photograph, but Cameron L. Rutt was able to obtain excellent shots.

2018-081

Michka Hebing photographed this immature male Broad-billed Hummingbird (2019-011) in her Baton Rouge yard, 10 February 2019.



2019-011

2018-081



2017-094

Among the many Black Rails documented during the Audubon Louisiana project (see p. 3) were these near Holly Beach, left (2017-094) photo by Thomas Finnie, 1 December 2017; and below (2018-033), two birds on 26 March 2018, photo by John Dillon.

### Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

#### Louisiana's Second and Third occurrences



2018-020

A pair (2018-020) that nested at Houma was just LA's second occurrence; up to two individuals were still present at this site into June 2019. Successful hatching of eggs was documented (left images) by Jessica Schulz, 25 March 2018. See also pp. 7-9 above.



2018-033



Two (2019-012) photographed (right images) by Paul Yakupzack in the Turtle Bayou area, 13 February 2019, represented the third state occurrence. Could these have originated from the Houma group?



2019-012



# Showcase 3: Ruff through California Gull

Ruff records included a Reeve (2017-055, right in foreground, dowitchers behind) photographed by Erik I. Johnson at Thornwell, 3 November 2017, and a male (2018-015, two photos below) photographed by Paul E. Conover at Kaplan, 11 January 2018.



2017-055



2018-015

Two immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were accepted: most interesting was one (2018-029, below left & middle) that spent a week at Buras, here photographed by Malise Prieto, 16 March 2018; the other (2018-035, below right) was photographed by Sam Saunders at Rutherford Beach, 24 April 2018.



2018-029



2018-035

Two of three accepted California Gulls were supported by photographs: an adult or near-adult (2018-019, right and below; in right photo, right-most bird with Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing gulls for comparison) was



2018-019

photographed by J. V. Remsen at Baton Rouge, 23 January 2018, for only the second accepted area occurrence; another adult (2018-068, right and below right, with California Gull center bird with Herring and Ring-billed gulls, Caspian and Royal terns) was photographed by Paul E. Conover at Rutherford Beach, 1 November 2018.



2018-019



2018-068



2018-068



# Showcase 4: White-winged Gulls

Winter 2017-2018 was good for “white-winged gull” records. Three records were accepted as generic Iceland Gull with intermediate characters and not diagnosable as either Thayer’s or Kumlien’s gull. All were found at inland landfills and supported by photos (and usually a series of images). At Baton Rouge, two first-cycle immatures (2018-004, photo right by J. V. Remsen, top right by Daniel F. Lane has Ring-billed Gulls (for size comparison), 4 January 2018; another first-cycle immature (2018-018, right, center bird with Ring-billed and Herring gulls) also photographed by Daniel F. Lane



2018-004



2018-004

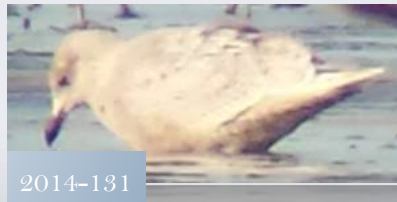


2018-018



2018-001

there, 23 January 2018, was considered a different individual. In *Jefferson Davis*, the Welsh Landfill hosted a first-cycle immature (2018-001) on 3 January 2018 (photo at left by J. V. Remsen). Another first-cycle immature (2018-075, two images lower right) there was photographed on the ground by Paul E. Conover, 9 December



2014-131

2018. Completing the Welsh Landfill records is an older record of a first-cycle immature (2014-131) photographed by Paul E. Conover on 29 January 2014.



2018-075



2018-006

Two individuals were accepted as Kumlien’s Iceland Gull. Both were also first-cycle immatures photographed at Egan by Paul E. Conover, one (2018-006 left) on 6 January 2018, and one (2018-025, right) on 25 February 2018.



2018-025



2018-002



2018-064

Four photo-documented first-cycle immature Glaucous Gulls included a parish first (2018-002, far left) photographed by J. V. Remsen at Baton Rouge, 4 January 2018, one (2018-064, above) (2018-064, above)



2011-010

photographed by Paul E. Conover at Cameron, 21 October 2018, and older records from the Cameron Ferry, 30 April 2011 (2011-010, at right, next to Brown Pelican, photo by Sue Broussard), and at Fourchon Beach, 5 April 2017 (2017-014, lower right next to Herring Gull, photo by Casey Wright).



2017-014



# Showcase 5: Great Black-backed Gull through Cory's Shearwater

2018-013



2018-007



2018-014



2018-021



Four Great Black-backed Gulls, all first-cycle immatures, were supported by photographs. Interestingly, three of four were inland: birds photographed by Paul E. Conover at the Welsh Landfill, 13 January 2018 (2018-013, above left) and at Egan, 6 January 2018 (2018-007, two images, above middle) were considered different individuals by virtue of tail pattern. One (2018-014) photographed by J. V. Remsen at Baton Rouge, 29 January 2018 (top image above right with Ring-billed, Laughing, and Lesser Black-backed gulls) and 5 February 2018 (above right bottom image) was a first parish record. One (2018-021) photographed by Paul E. Conover at Broussard Beach near Cameron, 4 February 2018, was at a more “traditional” coastal location.

2017-042



A juvenal-plumaged Arctic Tern (2017-042, two images above) photographed by Charles E. Lyon at Cross Lake, 5 September 2017, becomes Louisiana’s first accepted fall occurrence and first interior occurrence.

2018-061



Louisiana’s second Pacific Loon was this immature (2018-012, right) photographed by Herman Callais Jr. at Convent, 12 January 2018. Also see p. 1 for another photo.

2018-012



2018-063



Four Cory’s Shearwaters were observed on a 22 September 2018 pelagic out of Venice (mileage is SE of mouth of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River) and photos are all by Erik I. Johnson. Each was considered a different individual by molt and none were identified to subspecies: LBRC 2018-061 (above left) at 24.5 mi., LBRC 2018-062 (above right) at 30 mi., LBRC 2018-063 (bottom left) at 23.7 mi., and LBRC 2018-080 (bottom right) at 22.0 mi.

2018-062



2018-080



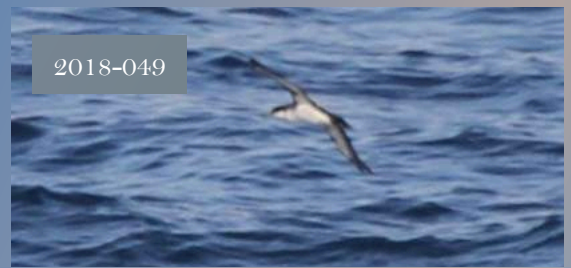
# Showcase 6: Great Shearwater through Harris's Hawk

The 22 September 2018 pelagic also scored a Great Shearwater (2018-060, right, photographed by Cameron L. Rutt) surprisingly close to shore at 10.7 mi. SE mouth of Southwest Pass of Mississippi River.

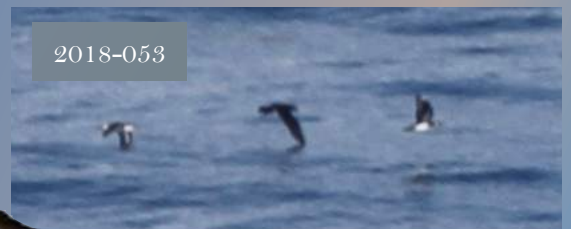
A cruise can provide another option for observers to get far offshore but challenges are created by virtue of the enormous size of a cruise ship and resulting distance from deck/observer to the water and birds below. Nonetheless, Jim Holmes, Jr. was able to photograph several Audubon's Shearwaters on 25 August 2018 during a cruise aboard the *Carnival Breeze*, including one of two (2018-049, right) about 175 nautical mi. south of South Pass Mississippi River, three (2018-053, lower right) about 156 mi. south, and one (2018-057, below) about 125 mi. SE of Southwest Pass.



2018-060



2018-049

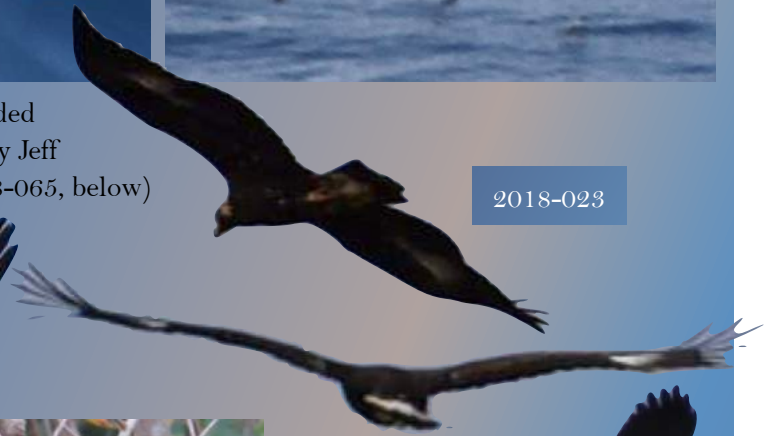


2018-053



2018-057

Two accepted Golden Eagles, both immatures, included one (2018-023, two images at right) photographed by Jeff Barnhill in *Morehouse*, 17 March 2018, and one (2018-065, below) photographed by Chris Merritt at *Mansfield*, 21 October 2018.



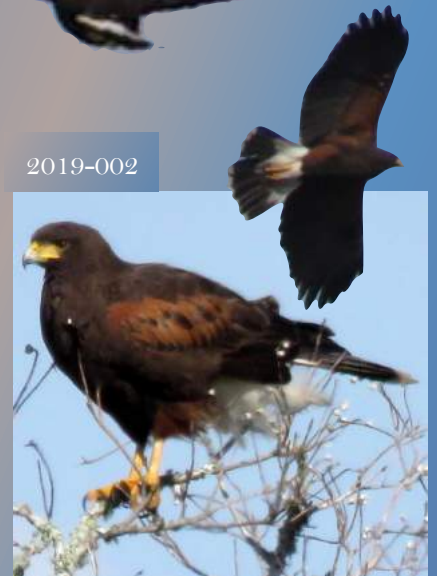
2018-023



2018-065



2018-074



2019-002

Accepted Harris's Hawk records involved adults at New Orleans, 22 October 2018 (2018-074, near right, photo by Glenn Ousset) and S Sulphur, 7 January 2019 (2019-002, two images far right, photos by Vicki Sensat).

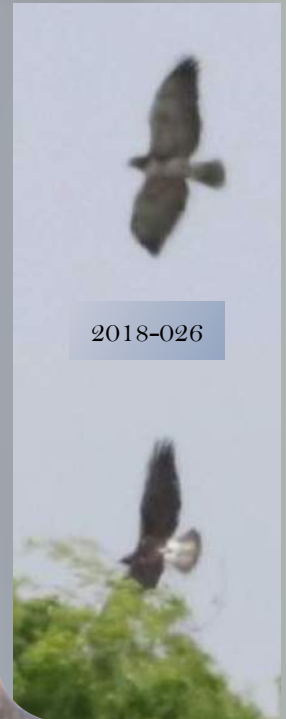


# Showcase 7: White-tailed Hawk through Burrowing Owl



2018-011

Accepted White-tailed Hawks included a sub-adult (2018-011, left) photographed by Jay V. Huner along Fruge Rd., 11 January 2018, and a stunning adult (2018-076, two flight shots below) photographed by Brad Moon on the *Cameron/Calcasieu* line on 16 December 2018. More challenging was the identification of a distant soaring immature (2018-026, right two images) photographed by Cameron L. Rutt at Sabine Pass on 26 March 2018.



2018-026



2018-076



Two Rough-legged Hawks in just over one year was remarkable: light morph immatures were found in *East Carroll* on 13 February 2018 (2018-022, left two images, upper by J. V. Remsen on date of discovery and lower by John K. Dillon on 16 February; bird lingered for at least nine days, much to the enjoyment of chasing birders), and E Cameron, 5 March 2019 (2019-013, right, photo by Kathleen O'Shaughnessy).



2018-022



2019-013



2018-086

Only one Ferruginous Hawk was found during 2018, a light morph juvenile (2018-086, left) photographed by Donna L. Dittmann near the Lacassine NWR pool unit, 27 October 2018.

The sole 2018 Burrowing Owl (2018-036, right) was found and photographed by Maureen Ellis just N Caminada Pass Bridge, 25 April 2018.



2018-036

# Showcase 8: Brown-crested Flycatcher and kingbirds

This Brown-crested Flycatcher (2018-009, right) was photographed by J. V. Remsen downriver from the Belle Chase ferry landing, 6 January 2018. The heavier bill, lack of dark tips on the inner web of the outer rectrices, and more colorful under parts distinguishes this species from the superficially similar Ash-throated Flycatcher.



2018-009

2017-002



Two non-vocal Tropical/Couch's kingbirds could not be confirmed down to species. One (2017-002, left) was photographed by Patricia Rosel and Scott France at Lafayette, 2 September 2017; the other (2019-008, below) was photographed by Ken Oeser near Welsh, 28 January 2019.

2019-008



This Gray Kingbird (2018-030, below, Eastern Kingbird on right for comparison) was photographed by Robert C. Dobbs at Whiskey Island, 2 May 2018.

2018-030



Louisiana's sixth and seventh occurrences of Fork-tailed Flycatcher both involved males with definitive primaries. Examination of outer primary tips best suggests

the northern subspecies *monachus*. The first record involved two individuals (2018-077, below photographed on the same wire by Irvin Louque, 17 December 2018, and flight photo upper right by Donna L. Dittmann, 19 December) SE Lake Charles. These two

individuals remained near Hwy. 397 X Ward Line Rd. until 11 January 2019.

Another male (2019-003) was found by David Booth on 12 January 2019 SE Vinton and photographed same day by Thomas Finnie (above, clearly showing the emarginated primary tips) and by Vicki Sensat (far right). This bird remained for over two weeks. Excellent photos of the two males' primary tips (bottom left) allowed comparisons proving that they were different individuals; otherwise, based on the dates, there might have been an assumption that the same long-tailed male was sequentially at both locations.

2018-077



2018-077

Note the difference in the length of the 'fingers' obtained from photos of the two male Fork-tailed Flycatchers.



2018-077

2019-003

2019-003



2019-003



# Showcase 9: Gray Flycatcher to thrashers

## Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)

### Louisiana's Third Occurrence

This wintering Gray Flycatcher (2019-006) was very cooperative and easily located at Diamond Park Recreation Area, where it was observed, photographed, and voice-recorded by many observers over nearly two months. Photo at right is by J. V. Remsen, 26 January 2019, the day of discovery. This is also the first occurrence for SE Louisiana. There are two previous state occurrences: January 2008 in *Bossier*, and mid-November 2011 at White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, *Vermilion*.



This stake-out Say's Phoebe (2008-078) on Sham's Road, *Vermilion*, was photographed by Devin Bosler, 15 November 2008. This is likely the same individual that was present at this location the previous winter (2007-056. *12th Report of the LBRC*).



This Black-whiskered Vireo (2018-037, left) was photographed by Casey Wright at Grand Isle State Park, 29 April 2018.



Quite the surprise was this Sage Thrasher (2018-027, right) photographed by Vicki Sensat along Ellis Moss Rd., 4 March 2018.

## Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

### Louisiana's Third Accepted Occurrence

One (2017-099) long-staying individual was present in a Baton Rouge neighborhood from October 2017-early April 2018. It was seen and photographed by countless birders after its presence was publicized in March. Photos by Bud Snowden, 16 March (left), J. V. Remsen, 18 March (upper right), and Robert C. Dobbs, 19 March (lower right) show the bird in its suburban surroundings. There are two previous LBRC-accepted occurrences: a specimen from *Cameron*, December 1963, and a photographed bird at an offshore oil platform (Garden Banks), June 2006. Three other older records from *Cameron* have never been reviewed: August 1958, December 1972 (Lowery 1974) and a CBC record from December 1979 (*American Birds*. V. 34, N. 4, p. 559).





# Showcase 10: Spotted Towhee and Bullock's Oriole



2019-005

Two Spotted Towhee records were accompanied by photos and include this adult female (2019-005, left) photographed at Pecan Island by Phillip A. Wallace, 13 January 2019. Wallace also teamed-up with Paul E. Conover to document two additional individuals they found at Grand Chenier, 21 January 2019 (2019-010), a female (upper right) photographed by Wallace, and a male (right) photographed by Conover.



2019-010



2017-058

Harahan seems to be a magnet for Bullock's Orioles, with newly accepted records from there including a female (2017-058, two images at left) photographed by Lizette Wroten at her yard, 7 November 2017, a gorgeous adult male (2018-010, bottom right) photographed by Joan Garvey in Mississippi River batture behind the defunct Colonial Oaks golf course, 9 January 2018, and a female (2018-084, two images at right) photographed there by Cathy DiSalvo, 11 January 2018. Elsewhere, Mark Pethke



2018-084



photographed an adult male (2018-016, below left) at his Baton Rouge yard, 18 January 2018 and, in Lafayette on 23 February 2018, Robert C. Dobbs photographed an adult male (2018-017, below middle) hosted by Jack and Rose Must.



2018-016



2018-017



2018-010



# Showcase I I: Warblers and Black-headed Grosbeak



2018-028

A skulking MacGillivray's Warbler (2018-028, left) discovered at City Park, New Orleans, challenged observers to obtain documentary photos. James W. Beck scored the best image (submitted to the LBRC) on 16 March 2018.



2017-016

Charlotte Chehotsky photographed this Audubon's Warbler (2017-016, right) at her Lake Charles yard, 9 April 2017. Stay tuned for parts two and three when it returns for winters 2017-2018 and 2018-2019!



2019-015

Robert C. Dobbs photographed this immature Black-headed Grosbeak (2019-015, left) at a Lafayette yard, 7 January 2019.

## Tropical X Northern Parula

(*Setophaga pitiayumi* X *S. americana*)

not a new dilemma but a new LBRC 'taxon'

Two records were submitted as Tropical Parula or hybrid Tropical X Northern Parula. Both were reviewed and judged to represent hybrids. A male (2017-004, upper right) photographed by Patricia Rosel and Scott France in Lafayette, 22 January-5 March 2017 exhibited a white lower eyelid, a non-Tropical character. White is also present (but barely discernible) on the lower right eyelid of an immature male



2017-004

(2019-009, right two images) photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (near right) in *Vermilion*, 13 January 2019. However, this bird has a more noticeable blackish breast band (even more obvious on the specimen, DLD 11560; photo far right by Donna L. Dittmann), which is more suggestive of Northern Parula. The first accepted Louisiana specimen of Tropical Parula (LBRC 1983-009, 4th Report of the LBRC, LSUMZ 113128, photo below, far right) was discovered to have a Northern Parula mtDNA



2019-009

haplotype when used in a phylogenetic survey of Parulidae; yet, this female did not show characters inconsistent with Tropical Parula. Tissue samples from Louisiana's second Tropical Parula specimen (LBRC 1988-060, 10th Report of the LBRC, LSUMZ 138250, photo, right, left specimen), an immature male, replaced the first in the DNA analysis (and was apparently more genetically pure; Lovette and Birmingham 2001), which showed that parulas shared very similar mitochondrial haplotypes (0.7% divergence) and perhaps should be treated as one species. Meanwhile, three other photo-documented records submitted as "Tropical Parula" that were previously reviewed and considered *unaccepted* might best be treated /accepted as this hybrid combo: LBRC 1996-013 and 2011-109 (17th Report of the LBRC), and LBRC 2013-093 (18th Report of the LBRC). Going forward, rather than not accepting Tropical Parulas because of potential hybridization and possibly lose track of those records, the LBRC will accept as



**Tropical X Northern Parula.** If you encounter a Tropical-type Parula - get lots of photos! Assuming that our vagrant Tropical Parulas (and hybrids) originate from southern Texas or northern Mexico, then check out this perspective by Tony Gallucci: <https://milkriver.blogspot.com/search?q=parula>.

1988-060 & 1983-009

# LBRC Review List

June 2019: 151 Species

KEY:

**Bold**

***Italicized Bold***

E?

Q

e/R

**Species known to hybridize with other species.**

*Hybrid(s) involving this parental species are documented for Louisiana.*

Species is probably extinct.

Status on State List is in question and needs resolution.

Species is extirpated in Louisiana (Whooping Crane re-introduction program in progress.)

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Brant	California Gull	Cordilleran Flycatcher
Canada Goose (wild only)	<b>Iceland Gull</b>	Cassin's Vireo
Trumpeter Swan (Q)	<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	Plumbeous Vireo
Tundra Swan	<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	Yellow-green Vireo
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	<b>Kelp Gull</b>	Black-whiskered Vireo
<b>American Black Duck</b>	Brown Noddy	Clark's Nutcracker
King Eider	Arctic Tern	Chihuahuan Raven
White-winged Scoter	Red-billed Tropicbird	Brown-chested Martin
Long-tailed Duck	Red-throated Loon	Rock Wren
<b>Common Merganser</b>	Pacific Loon	Northern Wheatear
Masked Duck	Yellow-nosed Albatross	Mountain Bluebird
Greater Prairie-Chicken (e)	Leach's Storm-Petrel	Townsend's Solitaire
American Flamingo	Cory's Shearwater	Varied Thrush
Least Grebe	Sooty Shearwater	Curve-billed Thrasher
Red-necked Grebe	Great Shearwater	Sage Thrasher
<b>Western Grebe</b>	Manx Shearwater	White Wagtail
Band-tailed Pigeon	Audubon's Shearwater	Evening Grosbeak
Smooth-billed Ani	Jabiru	Red Crossbill
Mangrove Cuckoo	Red-footed Booby	Lesser Goldfinch
Lesser Nighthawk	Golden Eagle	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Antillean Nighthawk	Northern Goshawk	Smith's Longspur
Vaux's Swift	Harris's Hawk	McCown's Longspur
Mexican Violetear	White-tailed Hawk	Cassin's Sparrow
Green-breasted Mango	Zone-tailed Hawk	Lark Bunting
<b>Rivoli's Hummingbird</b>	<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	Brewer's Sparrow
<b>Blue-throated Mountain-gem</b>	Ferruginous Hawk	American Tree Sparrow
<b>Lucifer Hummingbird</b>	Flammulated Owl	<b>Golden-crowned Sparrow</b>
<b>Anna's Hummingbird</b>	Snowy Owl	Baird's Sparrow
<b>Broad-billed Hummingbird</b>	Burrowing Owl	Green-tailed Towhee
Black Rail	Long-eared Owl	<b>Spotted Towhee</b>
Limpkin	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Hooded Oriole
Whooping Crane (e/R)	Ringed Kingfisher	<b>Bullock's Oriole</b>
Lesser Sand-Plover	Williamson's Sapsucker	Scott's Oriole
Mountain Plover	<b>Red-naped Sapsucker</b>	Shiny Cowbird
Eskimo Curlew (E?)	<b>Ladder-backed Woodpecker</b>	Bachman's Warbler (E?)
Black-tailed Godwit	Ivory-billed Woodpecker (E?)	Lucy's Warbler
Ruff	Prairie Falcon	<b>Virginia's Warbler</b>
Curlew Sandpiper	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Connecticut Warbler
Purple Sandpiper	Brown-crested Flycatcher	<b>MacGillivray's Warbler</b>
Red-necked Phalarope	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<b>Tropical Parula</b>
Red Phalarope	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b>
Long-tailed Jaeger	<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	<b>Townsend's Warbler</b>
Razorbill	<b>Couch's Kingbird</b>	<b>Hermit Warbler</b>
Ancient Murrelet	Cassin's Kingbird	Red-faced Warbler
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>	Gray Kingbird	Painted Redstart
Sabine's Gull	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Hepatic Tanager
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Western Wood-Pewee	Pyrhuloxia
Little Gull	Hammond's Flycatcher	<b>Black-headed Grosbeak</b>
Mew Gull	Gray Flycatcher	Blue Bunting
<b>Western Gull</b>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<b>Lazuli Bunting</b>
		<b>Varied Bunting</b>



**Hybrids.** Observers should be aware that several species on the Review List are documented to hybridize with other species (**boldfaced** previous page). If a species is *italicized*, then a hybrid has been documented in Louisiana. For these designated species, it is important to consider and eliminate a possible hybrid.

**Subspecies.** The following recognizable subspecies or forms which meet Review List criteria are on the Review List:

- Great Blue "Great White" Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)
- Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*Junco hyemalis montanus*/Oregon-group)
- Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)
- Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)
- Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

The above subspecies have been documented to occur in Louisiana and, if elevated to species status at some future date, would be added to the State and Review lists. There are no accepted records of "Red-shafted" Flicker (*Colaptes auratus cafer*) or other non-Slate-colored forms of Dark-eyed Junco. Documentation is also requested for these subspecies, which have been reported but not accepted in the past. See also: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/LBRCNL2017.pdf>.

**Species complexes and hybrids:** Records can be accepted to 'complex' when not diagnosable to species, e.g., Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus couchii*) and 'Western' (Pacific-slope/Cordilleran) Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis occidentalis*). Records can be accepted as hybrid (rather than rejected as 'species' where there is phenotypic suggestion/ genetic confirmation of hybridization, e.g., Chandeaur Gull/Kelp X Herring Gull (*Larus dominicanus X argentatus*) and Tropical X Northern Parula (*Setophaga pitiayuma X americana*). Additional hybrid combinations may be added in the future.

**Introduced Species.** The LBRC requests documentation for records of any species not currently accepted on the State List. This includes species of captive/introduced origin not currently on the State List or Review List (e.g., Black Francolin and Ring-necked Pheasant). There is a different policy for two species with known feral populations. For Monk Parakeet, the LBRC requests breeding records and especially those outside the Greater New Orleans area, data from censuses, or other information to track potential expansion: see also <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/LBRCNL2017.pdf>. For Canada Goose: *Canada Goose is added to the Review List based on records of wild, non-feral individuals*. Feral populations of Canada Goose occur widely or are continually introduced locally in urban or suburban areas (e.g., golf courses, parks), as well as potentially still emanating from the introduced Rockefeller Refuge population in coastal Cameron Parish. The LBRC does not solicit reports of feral individuals at this time.

**Dates of past removals / additions.** To improve the State's historical record of Review List Species status, the Committee welcomes documentation of occurrences of species from periods when the species was on, or prior to its removal, from the Review List: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (removed 31 Mar 1990), Ross's Goose (removed 31 Mar 1990), Cinnamon Teal (added 7 Sep 1996; removed 14 Mar 2015), American Black Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), White-winged Scoter (added 11 Mar 1989), Long-tailed Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), Common Merganser (added 11 Mar 1989), Eurasian Collared-Dove (Introduced Species, removed 7 Sep 1996), Inca Dove (removed 25 Apr 1986), Lesser Nighthawk (added 11 Mar 1989), Broad-tailed Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Allen's Hummingbird (removed 16 Mar 2013), Calliope Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Buff-bellied Hummingbird (removed 29 Apr 1988), Yellow Rail (removed 23 Apr 1994), Pomarine Jaeger (removed 7 Sep 1996), Parasitic Jaeger (removed 16 Mar 2013), Lesser Black-backed Gull (removed 7 Sep 1996), Bridled Tern (removed 7 Sep 1996), Wilson's Storm-Petrel (removed 25 Apr 1986, reinstated 23 Apr 1994, removed again 25 Sep 1999), Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (removed 7 Sep 2002), Masked Booby (removed 25 Sep 1999), Northern Gannet (removed 25 Apr 1986), White-tailed Kite (removed 11 Mar 1989), Golden Eagle (added 25 Apr 1986), Swainson's Hawk (removed 29 Apr 1988), Burrowing Owl (added 7 Sep 2002), Crested Caracara (added 18 May 1991; removed 8 Sep 2007), Ash-throated Flycatcher (removed 7 Sep 1996), Great Kiskadee (removed 10 Mar 2018), Alder Flycatcher (removed 23 Apr 1994), Willow Flycatcher (removed 14 Mar 2015), Say's Phoebe (removed 14 Mar 2015), Bell's Vireo (added 18 May 1991; removed 15 Mar 2015), Cave Swallow (removed 12 Mar 2011), Evening Grosbeak (added 7 Sep 1996), House Finch (Introduced Species, removed 18 May 1991), Spotted Towhee (added 7 Sep 1996), Bullock's Oriole (added 7 Sep 1996), Western Tanager (added 11 Mar 1989; removed 16 Mar 2013), and Black-headed Grosbeak (added 11 Mar 1989).

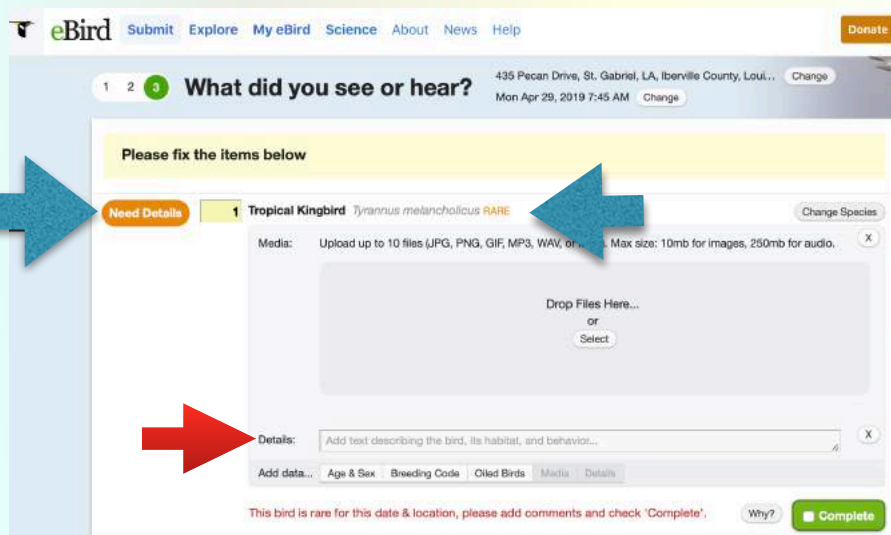
## Secretarial Notes

Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary (& LBRC eBird Reviewer)

During preparation of the LBRC's Annual Report, I've had the opportunity to revisit records published therein, especially those that were not accepted. This *Secretarial Notes* focuses (again) on eBird, which has dramatically impacted the LBRC - some good, some bad. **The good:** many observers use eBird to archive their bird sightings and, increasingly, include photos and audio files to augment their lists- **these hard-evidence data go into a national database.** **The bad:** 1-Many LBRC Review List Species included on eBird lists are not also being submitted directly to the LBRC; and 2-details for rare species on eBird lists are often lacking or incomplete. These issues are clearly evident in the *22nd Report of the LBRC* (pp. 3-23).

### Flagged rarities.

When a rarity is "flagged" in eBird, a pop-up appears indicating that the species is RARE and that DETAILS are required (see left, blue arrows). Flagged observations require additional details for acceptance by the eBird reviewer(s). If a record is accepted (=available for public view) then it is included in the eBird database. If not, then it remains on your personal eBird list(s) but is not available for public view, which means that it is also not included in the eBird database. You won't realize your record is not public unless you



search for that record using the "Explore" options.

When a species is *flagged* you are prompted to provide supporting details but eBird **does not tell you why** the species is flagged, whether it's a Review List Species (averaging fewer than four occurrences/year averaged over a 10-year period), or is generally scarce or seasonally rare. Nor does it prompt you as to **what information you should provide** to complete this entry: only a blank area to add *Details* (red arrow above). If your entry is not adequate, then you will likely receive an email from the local volunteer eBird Reviewer asking for additional information to support your sighting and, if a Review List species, encouraging submission of documentation to the LBRC. In the meantime, if the record is acceptable to the reviewer then he/she will *accept* your sighting ("pending LBRC review"). It is important to remember that providing adequate details or photos may suffice to *confirm* your eBird rarity - it is not a simultaneous LBRC submission. Perhaps in the future the LBRC and eBird may be better-coordinated, and the new team of LA reviewers will pursue this!

What is the best approach? When submitting your Review List Species to eBird, try to include in the Details section all information requested on the LBRC long form. Because your eBird list submission will often span a longer duration and cover a broader area beyond the rare bird observation, there's a need to provide much more specific information about the rare bird encounter in the *Details* section. If your eBird account is written at or near the time of your observation then it's available for you to draw upon to write your LBRC report, especially if you didn't take additional field notes. It can preserve your recollections of the event, so it's important to enter additional information while details are still fresh in your memory. I recommend creating a Word file (see next page) that includes a list of needed information. Use that to write your entry, then cut and paste the file into your eBird list. Doing it this way may spare you the agony of accidentally closing your eBird window (*and losing your hard work!*). If working from a Mobile App, then add some basics and you can amend your entry and expand on your details at your soonest opportunity. There is no word limit. Another option is to complete an LBRC report form, photograph it with your smart phone, and upload that to the "Media" section of the species' entry.



**Important information to include:**

*Time: & Duration* (of your observation, which generally is not the same as that entered for the eBird list);

*Specific Locality* (if more specific than your eBird location);

*Viewing conditions* (distance, optics, weather if relevant or not included in the eBird list);

*Circumstances of the observation* (yours and the bird's, including habitat and bird's behavior);

*Description* (plumage, size, shape, and voice, note how other species were eliminated if relevant, especially important if diagnostic photos are not obtained).

I used the above as a template (more or less) to write a new account for my existing eBird Details for a Ferruginous Hawk because my entry initially read: *Light morph; photos to be added*. I did upload four photos to satisfy the eBird reviewer that the ID was correct, but had not otherwise amended the entry. Aside from the photos, the eBird account provided zero information about the observation. Because I submitted a long form to the LBRC, in this case I used that to cut and paste additional information to amend the eBird account (*rather than vice versa, which is what I am actually recommending*). My eBird account now reads: *"First spotted about 5 PM (based on memory and photo time stamps) and watched for about 25 minutes. We were initially at the refuge near the first kiosk/parking area at the Pool when SWC spotted a very distant soaring Buteo about 0.72 mi. distant while scanning huge flocks of grackles, ibis, and some soaring raptors. The hawk was clearly N of refuge boundary and E of Illinois Plant Rd. To get a better look we drove back to the entrance then north on Illinois Plant Rd to where the vegetation was not too tall and we could scope to the E. SWC relocated the soaring hawk now about 0.6 mi. to our ENE where it was still very distant. We watched it soar for a while until it did a stoop and when it did not reappear we drove in its direction N to the first gravel road extending E, and on that (with permission) for about 1/2 mi. to a newly cut rice field (south side of road). DLD spotted the hawk sitting on the ground about 100-200 m away to the SSE. This is where we got our best views, obtained photos, and confirmed ID. After a few minutes the bird was flushed to obtain flight photos and was last seen flying low to the SE. Viewing conditions were good, field observations assisted with 10 X 42 / 10 X 50 Leica binoculars and Kowa 25-60 X telescope. Description: a large light morph juvenile Buteo aged by pale iris, pale thighs, and relatively pale under wing; species ID characters visible in uploaded photos include diagnostic combination of feathered tarsi, upper and under wing pattern, tail pattern, head pattern, and large bill/cere with gape extending posteriorly to under the eye; bird did not call."*

When all relevant information is included in your eBird entry, it provides a complete account of your observation (even as abbreviated as my example above). If you do not also keep personal notes then *this is your personal account of your observation*. Not only will this account be available for you to reminisce (as our memories fade it is fun to look back on birding outings for which you might not otherwise remember details), but it is important to provide future researchers with as much information as possible in eBird's database. A thorough eBird entry can make it easy to recover information for a LBRC submission. If all information is there, then you can simply include that on your LBRC long form or simply enter "see eBird" and provide the link to your checklist. You can flesh-out areas and additional details as needed on your LBRC long form. Remember, if you amend your eBird entry and you have a shared list, then you will need to re-share the list with co-observers so they can update their list. Also be aware that photos by other observers on shared lists are copyrighted to eBird/Macaulay Library. So, whereas these are available to review by the LBRC, the photos are not available for the LBRC to publish in our reports.

My role as a Louisiana eBird reviewer will be to reconcile Review List Species observations in eBird as per LBRC status following LBRC review. So, I will be gradually and systematically examining Review List Species records. Other Louisiana eBird reviewers will handle whether to *confirm* a flagged species/request additional details, and solicit LBRC submissions. LBRC Members currently also serving as Louisiana eBird reviewers are: Steven W. Cardiff (primary, statewide), Paul E. Conover (at large, statewide, plus Hotspots, and will assist with LBRC record reconciliation), John Dillon (Northern & Central, plus Hotspots), Robert C. Dobbs (SW & South Central), and Casey Wright (SE). Also on the Louisiana eBird reviewer team are David P. Muth (SE), Matthew L. Brady ("Baton Rouge area" parishes), and Oscar Johnson (Northshore, Florida parishes). All these reviewers have statewide review privileges as necessary.

The LBRC celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

Please continue to support the LBRC by submitting your records of Review List Species.

# The Louisiana Bird Records Committee

LBRC Newsletter design & editor: Donna L. Dittmann



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SPECIAL THANKS  
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LARRY R. RAYMOND.

SOME MISTAKES  
ALWAYS SEEM TO  
DEFY DETECTION.  
IF YOU SPOT ANY  
ERRORS OR  
OMISSIONS IN  
THIS ISSUE, THEN  
PLEASE SEND  
CORRECTIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY.

THANK YOU!