

Membership Meetings for Fall 2002

NOTE: Meetings will be held at Dorothy Prowell's house, 4644 Arrowhead St., Baton Rouge, LA. Call 923-1070 for directions.

Nov. 21 (7:30 PM): Lynn Tennefoss, NAS Director of Chapter Services, will participate in an informal question-answer session on how our chapter can better tailor its programs to fit with the needs and desires of our local community. Lynn will provide us with examples of programs in other chapters that are working well.

Dec. 19 (7 PM): Christmas Potluck Dinner/BRAS Chapter Planning meeting. BRAS will provide drinks and a ham. Bring a dish if you have time. After dinner we'll discuss what we've learned from our fall meetings with NAS directors, changes we want to make as a chapter, and what programs we want to emphasize. Please RSVP via email - dprowe@lsu.edu or call Dorothy at 923-1070 so we have a head count.

Board Meetings will also be held at Dorothy Prowell's house, 4644 Arrowhead St. in Baton Rouge at 7PM on the following dates: Nov. 14, Dec. 19, and Jan. 9. All BRAS members are invited to attend.

Sanctuary Workday Announced

Mark your calendars for a Nov. 9th workday at the Peveto Woods Sanctuary. We'll get started around 10AM on site, work all day, spend Saturday night cooking, eating and socializing, and drive back Sunday. BRAS will cover food expenses and we'll coordinate lodging when we get a head count. If you're interested in spiffing up the sanctuary and having fun too, email Victoria Moseley Bayless at vmosele@lsu.edu.

Baton Rouge Nature Encounters

The BREC-LSU-BRAS Highland Road Park Observatory is working to develop a walking trail in the Bottomland Hardwood Forest that surrounds campus. Project coordinator and AmeriCorps member, Maria Nicolosi, has asked the Baton Rouge Audubon Society for help.

From 8 AM until noon on November 9 and 16, the observatory will host clean-up days. Volunteers from throughout the community will clear trash and debris from the walking path, install water bars and begin blazing new trail. Also on November 16 from 1 to 3 PM, the observatory will conduct a training session for those interested in becoming Trail Assistants for the bi-monthly Nature Encounters that begin on December 7.

It is with Nature Encounters that the trail project most needs help. From 1 to 3 PM every first and third Saturday beginning in December, the public will be invited to experience nature firsthand at one of the few green spaces left in Baton Rouge. The first hour will consist of a guided hike lead by an area naturalist. The second hour will be an educational activity. Topics will range from wildlife conservation to tree identification to Geocaching, a game that uses Global Positioning System units to find hidden treasures.

Perhaps the members of the Audubon Society would like to lead a guided hike or sponsor an educational activity every other month. It would be a great opportunity to share your passion for birds with a captive audience. The Walking Trail Project can pay guides and presenters up to \$100 per Encounter for their service.

C a l e n d a r

Nov. 9, ^{SAT}Thursday. Sanctuary Workday, 10 AM at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries in Cameron Parish. Dinner provided. See article, this page.

Nov. 14, Thursday. BRAS Board Meeting, 7 PM at Dorothy Prowell's home, 4644 Arrowhead Street. All members invited.

Nov. 21, Thursday. BRAS Monthly Meeting. NAS Director of Chapter Services, Lynn Tennefoss is our guest, 7:30 PM at Dorothy Prowell's home, 4644 Arrowhead St., Baton Rouge.

First Saturday each month. "Breakfast with the Birds." Field trip starts at 7 AM. Meet at Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Cntr.

Dec. 7, Saturday. Field Trip: LSU Museum of Natural Science/LSU & Capital Lakes, Baton Rouge. Meet at the museum entrance at 10 AM. Call Harriett Pooler at 225/291-0077.

Dec. 19, Thursday. BRAS Christmas Potluck Dinner, 7 PM at Dorothy Prowell's home, 4644 Arrowhead Street. All members invited. Call Dorothy at 923-1070. Board meeting/discussion to follow dinner.

Jan. 9, Thursday. BRAS Board Meeting, 7 PM at Dorothy Prowell's home, 4644 Arrowhead Street. All members invited.

Jan. 11, Saturday. Field Trip: Baton Rouge Wintering Hummingbirds. Meet at Coffee Call (College at I-10) at 8 AM. Call Dennis Demcheck at 225/923-1437.

Feb. 15, Saturday. Field Trip: Sherburne WMA South Farm Complex, North of Ramah, LA, in Atchafalaya Basin. Meet at overflow parking lot at La. Wildlife & Fisheries Bldg. on Quail Dr. at 8:30 AM. Register with Al Troy at 225/766-7784.

Last week Emily Byram of National Audubon's Public Policy Division delivered our monthly presentation-come on, people, let's all come out and support your Audubon chapter by coming to the meetings!-and gave an excellent overview of National's grassroots conservation activities. Among other things, Emily told us about Audubon Advisory, a biweekly publication that summarizes important bird conservation issues. You can receive a copy in your email or regular mail by calling 1-800-659-2622 or emailing to audubonaction@audubon.org. Audubon Advisory makes

participation in conservation advocacy easy, so please have a look. You also might want to consult the web at <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/> for updates and information on other conservation issues and how you can help. You can also sign up for Audubon Advisory at this website.

Other Issues

Update on Presidential Healthy Forests Initiative. A national forest fire prevention bill (H.R. 5319) is moving through the House, and while it is an improvement over some previous

offerings, it still deeply flawed. HR 5319 short circuits citizen involvement and oversight of actions on public lands, sidesteps the nation's cornerstone environmental legislation (NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act) by not allowing consideration of alternatives to prevent fires, and encourages logging of commercial trees in roadless areas. Please visit <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/> and click on "National Forests at Risk in the US Congress" or go directly to <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/contact/default.asp?subject=61>.

Cell Phone Towers

Like your cell phone? Use it a lot? You may not realize you're killing birds with it. The towers that relay cell phone signals have killed tens of millions of birds, and these towers are proliferating exponentially. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 4-5 million birds are killed annually by hitting communication towers, and other estimates are an order of magnitude higher. Migratory songbirds are especially hard hit and the Gulf Coast experiences very high levels of mortality since it is on primary migration routes to Latin America. Cell phones are here to stay, but there are things that can be done to minimize avicide such as keeping the towers short, clustering them together or with existing towers to localize impacts, and siting towers away from migration and movement corridors. The American Bird Conservancy and other groups are very active in trying to reduce bird mortality from all kinds of towers; to learn more or take action please visit <http://www.abcbirds.org/policy/towerkill.htm> or www.forestconservation.org.

President's Message

by Dorothy Prowell

Before becoming president of BRAS, I chaired the Sanctuary Committee with the specific goal of exploring possibilities for land acquisitions using our sanctuary funds. That effort led to the purchase of an additional lot at the Peveto Woods Sanctuaries last winter. Several other exciting options developed during that period and they may be coming to fruition soon.

Two options involve conservation easements placed on land, with BRAS acting solely or in partnership as the holder of the easement. Conservation easements generally protect land in perpetuity by attaching restrictions to the title and they cost a fraction of the market price of the land or may cost nothing. Landowners may desire this because they want land to remain wild and undeveloped. They may also receive a tax break on unrealized income from resources taken out of production by the easement (i.e., trees restricted from logging).

Conservation easements have other benefits too. Birds and other wildlife benefit from access to permanently protected habitat. BRAS benefits by gaining more sites for birdwatching. In cases where there is no public access, BRAS benefits by fulfilling its mission of protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife.

With the help of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy, we are exploring easement possibilities on land near Baton Rouge and on a large tract of chenier property in Cameron Parish. It will be exciting for BRAS if those land deals work out. I'll keep you posted in upcoming newsletters.

We are in a transition period with our website and our membership tracking. We hired Stacy Clayton to spiff up our website and to make it easier for us to update it each month. We're also reorganizing our membership database and checking and rechecking it to be sure everyone's in it. We know there have been problems with members not getting newsletters and that should be fixed by this mailing we hope. Sorry about that!

Don't forget about our slate of speakers from National Audubon this fall. Dan Niven gave an enthusiastic, informative talk about the Important Bird Areas Program at our Sept. meeting. Emily Byram, Grassroots Coordinator for NAS, spoke in October. On Nov. 21, Lynn Teneffoss will give us an opportunity to ask questions and discuss chapter planning, and enlighten us on innovative programs in other chapters.

Since we didn't get organized in time for our popular Fall potluck dinner, we are having a Christmas Potluck/Meeting on Dec. 19

Nature Encounters

Continued

Those interested in participating should contact Maria Nicolosi at 766-3539 or email her at observatory@brec.org. For more information about the project visit <http://www.bro.lsu.edu/>

NOTE: All BRAS field trips are open to the public.

A \$1.00 fee is charged per person.

Saturday, December 7, 2002 (Easy Access)

LSU Museum of Natural Science/LSU & Capital Lakes

Baton Rouge, LA

Meet at LSU Museum Entrance at 10 AM

Join LSU Ornithologist Van Remsen on a tour behind the scenes at the LSU Museum of Natural Science. Van will show us LSU's extensive collection of birds and bird skins from Louisiana and around the world which are usually off limits to the public. After the tour, we'll break for lunch (11:30) and then head off to the LSU Lakes and Capital Lakes in search of wintering ducks. Some species which might be seen are Ruddy ducks, Greater Scaup, Ring-necked duck, Mallards and Hooded Merganser. Meet at the entrance to the LSU Museum at 10 AM (park in Peabody Hall parking lot), bring a lunch and spotting scope if you have one. Call Harriett Pooler at 291-0077 for any questions.

Saturday, January 18, 2003 (Easy Access)

Baton Rouge Wintering Hummingbirds

Baton Rouge, LA

Meet at Coffee Call (College Drive @ I-10) at 8 AM

Last year's Baton Rouge Christmas Bird Count (BRCBC) tallied a record-breaking 151 hummingbirds from 8 species. Early returns indicate that this year will be at least as good. Let's meet at 8 AM at Coffee Call Saturday, January 18th to visit 3 or 4 homes in Baton Rouge for an easy half-day trip. This will be about 2 weeks after the 2002-03 BRCBC, so we should have a good idea of the most productive homes and the birds likely to be seen. Rufous and the challenging-to-ID Rufous/Allen's hummers are guaranteed. Birds seen last year include Calliope, Black-chinned, Ruby-throated and Broad-tailed. Buff-bellied is a possibility. Call Dennis Demcheck at 923-1437 for more info.

Saturday, February 15, 2003 (Easy hike with some wet grass)

Sherburne WMA South Farm Complex

North of Ramah, LA, in the Atchafalaya Basin

Meet at 8:30 AM in the overflow parking lot at the LA Wildlife & Fisheries Dept. Bldg. on Quail Drive to carpool 30 miles to the WMA. In the summer the Complex is teeming with Wood Storks and numerous species of wading birds as well as Swallow-tailed kites, hawks and song birds. In the winter it is host to a menagerie of ducks and other avian critters waiting to be discovered. The Complex is truly a birder's paradise right in our own backyard. We will bird from flat, wide trails that may include some wet grass. Expect to walk 3 miles to see the most birds. Bring water, snacks, and insect repellent and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED. To sign up or for more info call Al Troy at 225/766-7784 or e-mail at aatroy@aol.com. NOTE: If you are between 16 and 60 years old, you must have a valid LA hunting or fishing license or a valid Wild Louisiana Stamp to legally enter a WMA.

Barred Owl T-Shirts Available

A limited number of Baton Rouge Audubon t-shirts are still available for purchase. These shirts are a heavyweight blend of 50% cotton/50% poly, and feature a flying Barred Owl logo on the front with the words Baton Rouge Audubon. Wear one of these to show you're a Baton Rouge birder and proud of it.

The t-shirts are available in two colors, natural (ivory), and jade (green/teal). Sizes from Adult Large to XXL (Sorry, we're out of Mediums). Each shirt is \$15. You may buy t-shirts at any Audubon monthly meeting, or call Donna LaFleur at 892-4492 to arrange for purchase. We will mail your purchase for an additional \$2. per shirt. Send a check or money order made out to: Baton Rouge Audubon Society, P.O.Box 82525, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525.

Purchase Your 2003 Bird Patch Now

The Blue Grosbeak adorns this year's patch. Our thanks to artist Murrel Butler for donating his considerable talents in creating the painting for this image. Patches can be ordered by filling out our Membership Form and remitting with check or money order.

Some patches from past years are available for \$5. each, in case you

BRAS Directory

Officers

President	
Dorothy Prowell	923-1070
Vice-President	
Dan Hendricks	757-1593
Secretary	
JoAnn Fryling	766-3120
Treasurer	
Fred Sheldon	763-6113
Immediate Past President	
Donna LaFleur	892-4492

Committee Chairs

Conservation	
Mark Skinner	201-0078
Education	
Chris Carlton	344-9635
Field Trips/Activities	
Harriett Pooler	291-0077
Legal	
Doris Falkenheiner	346-8761
Membership	
Elaine Kilgore	667-3206
Publicity/Newsletter	
Donna LaFleur	892-4492
Sanctuaries	
Victoria Moseley	578-1838

LAC Representatives

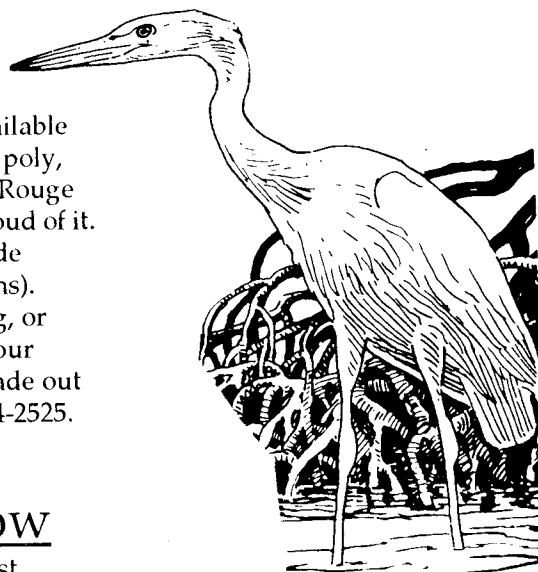
Doris Falkenheiner	346-8761
Charles Fryling	766-3120
Donna LaFleur	892-4492

The Barred Owl

is published six times a year by the Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, calendar listings and other information for publication may be sent to:

Editor, Barred Owl
1423 Tanglebriar Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Changes of address and other official chapter mail should be sent to Baton Rouge Audubon Society at the return address on the mailing panel.
Editor Donna LaFleur 892-4492



DOROTHY PROWELL
 4644 ARROWHEAD ST
 BATON ROUGE LA 70808

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST *BARRED OWL* if you are not a member of the National Audubon Society (NAS) or the Baton Rouge Audubon Society (BRAS). Please renew now!
 THANKS!

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, an explanation:

National Audubon Society has changed membership rules and is allowing chapters to offer CHAPTER ONLY memberships. BRAS -Chapter Only members receive our *Barred Owl* newsletter and a 2003 bird patch if desired (Check "YES" on the form). Dues will support only local programs. Memberships will run on a calendar year cycle (Jan. 1-Dec. 31). Membership in BRAS is now coupled with the patch.

National Audubon Society memberships for continuing members are handled by NAS - send your dues directly to them. NAS members in our chapter area are automatically BRAS members and will receive *Audubon Magazine*, our *Barred Owl* newsletter, and for an additional fee of \$10 sent to BRAS, a 2003 bird patch (check "Yes" on form). Your dues support both national and local programs. If you are an NAS member from OUTSIDE of our chapter area, and would like to receive the *Barred Owl* and a patch if desired (check "Yes" on form), check the "BRAS-Chapter Only" option.

National Audubon is offering a discounted rate to "New Members Only." All of these dues go to our chapter for the first year. New members receive *Audubon Magazine*, the *Barred Owl*, and a patch if desired (check "Yes" on form).

To summarize, we encourage you to join NAS. They pursue bird conservation, habitat protection, advocacy, and educational issues with vigor and on a broader level than our chapter. However, if you live outside of our chapter area, or if you prefer to be a local member only, please check the "BRAS -Chapter Only" option.

BATON ROUGE AUDUBON SOCIETY			
Membership Type	Cost	2003 Patch	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> National Audubon Society - New Members Only	\$20	Yes__ No__	
<input type="checkbox"/> Baton Rouge Audubon Society - Chapter Only	\$20	Yes__ No__	
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing National Audubon Members - BRAS Patch Option (must be a paid member of NAS)	\$10	Yes__	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra 2003 patches (for members only)	\$10 ea	#_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution			
GRAND TOTAL			
Name _____ Phone _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
Email _____			Local Chapter Code: 7XCH8 K01

Please send this form and your check made out to *Baton Rouge Audubon Society* to:
Baton Rouge Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 82525
 Baton Rouge, LA 70884