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 Tennenfoss, 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 7 PM 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 10 AM 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.

Calendar

Nov. 9, 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 Tennenfoss 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 Ctr.


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.

Nature Encounters
Continued

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

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Immediate Past President  
Donna Lafaure  
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Field Trips/Activities  
Harriett Pooler  
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Elaine Kilgore  
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Donna Lafaure  
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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 Lafaure  
892-4492

Barred Owl T-Shirts Available
A limited number of Baton Rouge Audubon t-shirts are still available for purchase. These shirts include a heavy weight 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 order t-shirts at any Audubon monthly meeting, or call Donna Lafaure 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 Murrell 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 missed them. Call Donna Lafaure (766-3120) for details on any we’ll have left.

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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.

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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