President’s Message
by Dorothy Prowell

The BRAS board is hard at work on a great program for the fall. On Friday, October 17th, starting at 7PM, BRAS is hosting a multi-faceted get-together. It started as a pot luck/art sale where members would contribute nature artwork that would be auctioned off for fun and to make a few bucks. Then Harriett Pooler solicited donations of original works from some of our local artists (John O’Neill, Doug Pratt, and Donna Dittman), and that upped the sophistication index significantly.

In the midst of this, I witnessed a seminar Van Remsen (LSU ornithologist) gave on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. It was an excellent, interesting, informative presentation and perfect for an Audubon audience. I convinced him to be our fall speaker with minimal arm-twisting. Have you wondered when the last bona fide sighting was, if any of the hundreds of subsequent reported sightings were legitimate, what caused the demise of this magnificent bird, or where it would most likely be if it still exists? Van addresses these questions and more in an historical account of the decline of this unique component of our natural heritage.

We’ve arranged to hold the event at the new Hilltop Arboretum Pavilion. Victoria and I visited the site and they are well on the way to having the new lake and gravel parking lot in place by the plant sale, October 3rd (that’s FRIDAY starting at noon this year) and 4th. Thus, it will be in fine form by our event. It’s a beautiful setting and, barring a hurricane, we’ll be able to enjoy a cool fall evening outdoors.

So, here’s what’s in store for the evening. BRAS is providing drinks see “President’s Message” on page 2
President’s Message

(wine, beer, soft drinks, juice) and lots of hors d’oeuvres. We’ll eat, socialize, enjoy Hilltop, look at and bid on artwork from 7-8PM. Van will give his slide presentation at 8PM and we’ll mill around until around 9:30ish. In addition to auction items, we plan to exhibit some of the artist’s other works.

If you want to donate some of your artwork (it doesn’t have to be original or done by you) please get in touch with me (923-1070 or dprowe@lsu.edu) or Victoria (757-7169 or vmosele@lsu.edu) or any of the other board members by 7PM on Sat., Oct. 11th. Hope to see you there.

BYLAW REVISIONS

We are required by National Audubon to revise the part of our bylaws that relate to our relationship with National. We also made a few other changes to streamline the document and to facilitate conducting business. The BRAS Board approved the bylaws in our September 10th meeting. We will have a joint meeting of the board and members at 7 p.m. on October 15th at Dorothy’s house (4644 Arrowhead Street) to vote on final approval of the Bylaws.

Please review the draft of the revised bylaws included in this issue as an insert. Current text that has been deleted is shown with a strikethrough (i.e., a horizontal line drawn through the body of the text). Revisions to the bylaws are shown in underlined text.

2004 PATCHES ARE IN - BUY YOURS NOW!

Conservation Report

Coastal Update / Election 2003

The Coast 2050 planning process is making headway in anticipation of a major coastwide restoration program for Louisiana. COAST 2050 is a joint planning initiative among the Louisiana Wetland Conservation and Restoration Authority, the Breau Act Task Force, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Authority. This partnership is embarking on the development of a strategic plan to protect and sustain the state’s coastal resources for future generations in a manner that is consistent with the welfare of the people.

There are three Constitutional amendments on the current ballot (October 4, 2003) that support reconstruction of Louisiana’s coast, and BRAS urges you to support them all. Amendment 1 provides a minimum of five hundred million dollars for coastal restoration via the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund, Amendment 2 establishes the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund with tobacco settlement money, and Amendment 3 limits the size of damages that can be awarded for loss due to coastal restoration efforts. Amendment 3 is a direct response to outrageous damages (more than $600,000,000) awarded to oyster fishermen who claim their state leases were degraded by existing marsh building projects at Davis Pond and Caenarvon.

You can learn more about Coastal Restoration by visiting http://www.lacoast.gov.

Legislature, LADWF Open First Bobcat Hunting Season In 25 Years

At the request of the legislature (Act 1248), the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission accepted a declaration of emergency to establish a bobcat hunting season to run concurrent with the 2003-04 deer season. This is an incidental take hunt for licensed deer hunters, and the limit is one per year. According to LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, prior to 1978 thebobcat was classified as an outlaw quadruped and could be harvested by a licensed hunter at any time except at night. They were reclassified in 1978 as non-game fur bearers. This made them legal to be harvested only by trappers during the trapping season. Their harvest numbers peaked in the early 1980s. Since the mid 1980s, reforestation programs have greatly enhanced the bobcat habitat and their population has increased.

BRAS does not support a rifle season for bobcats and does not believe it makes sense to thin the numbers of what amounts to an already seriously depleted top carnivore guild. There are no more wolves in Louisiana, no cougars, and the black bear is endangered and very very rare.
Baton Rouge Audubon’s Fall Program and Nature Art Auction

Dr. Van Remsem (Renowned LSU ornithologist) will give a presentation on:

“Our Lost Natural Heritage: Searches for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker”

Local Artists including John O’Neill, Doug Pratt, Donna Dittman and others have donated artwork for our Silent Auction

BRAS Members may donate nature art by contacting Dorothy (923-1070 or dprowe@lsu.edu) or Victoria (757-1769 or vmosle@lsu.edu)

Hilltop Arboretum Pavilion
Friday, October 17th
7-9:30 PM

Wine and Hors d’oeuvres Provided

BRAS Members Free, others $10
Directions to Hilltop: 11855 Highland Rd. between Bluebonnet and Siegen
FIELD TRIPS  by Harriett Pooler

RICHFIELD RIVERSILT

Meet at Coffee Call at 7 a.m. We will go to this area over by the river to look for early waterfowl, returning sparrows, and fall warblers. Be prepared for some walking and expect to be finished by noon. Call Harriett at 291-0077 for more information.

HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN TRIP

Meet on Saturday, November 1 at 1:15 p.m. at Coffee Call on College Drive. PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. Call Harriett at 291-0077 to sign up. We will drive over to Pecan Drive to take a tour of Donna Dittmann and Steve Cardiff’s yard, which set the Louisiana Yard Year List Record of 198 species in 1999. They will show us a variety of hummingbird and butterfly attracting plants, as well as various water features to attract birds. Birds we might see in their yard include winter hummingbirds, lingering fall migrants, Barred Owl, and possibly Whip-poor-will (at dusk).

Conservation Report continued from Page 2

Along with Orleans Audubon, we think that creation of a non-game study leader would provide better balance between hunting and biodiversity interests within the LADWF. Please write to James Jenkins Jr. (Secretary, LADWF, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70808) to express your disappointment with legalizing bobcat hunting, and urge the department to create a new non-game study leader position to support non-game programs.

Sanctuary Report by Victoria Bayless

News from the Peveto Woods Sanctuary.

A group of BRAS members will be participating in the Beach Sweep at the Sanctuary on the 20th. We will be cleaning our section of beach as well as the beach along Little Florida Subdivision. I have reports from Al Heath (our Sanctuary caretaker) that during the last two storms the Sanctuary beach was seriously eroded. I will let you know in the next Barred Owl how bad the beach loss was.

As for good news, work on the new interpretive panel continues. Our artist Sharen Carter, has now completed the background painting as well as 4 of the small inset paintings of individual birds. The newest of these is the Louisiana Waterthrush. I am working on the text for the panel with Jay Miller the exhibit specialist. We are hoping to have some of the art available for viewing at the BRAS Program and Art Auction on Oct. 17th. Sharen really is an excellent artist and is successfully capturing the feel of the Chenier woods.

As always, contact me at vmosela@lsu.edu or by phone 225-757-1769 if you are interested in working at the sanctuary anytime. I will put you on the call list. Thanks.

BRAS Directory

Officers
President  Dorothy Prowell . . . . .  923-1070
Vice-President  Dan Hendricks   . . . . .  757-1593
Secretary  JoAnn Fryling . . . . .  766-3120
Treasurer  Fred Sheldon . . . . .  763-6113

Committee Chairs
Conservation  Mark Skinner . . . . .  201-0078
Education  Chris Carlton . . . . .  344-9635
Field Trips / Activities  Harriett Pooler . . . . .  291-0077
Legal  Doris Falkenheimer . . . . .  346-8761
Membership  Dorothy Prowell . . . . .  923-1070
Newsletter  Ron Bayless . . . . .  757-1769
Publicity  Donna LaFleur . . . . .  892-4492
Sanctuaries  Victoria M. Bayless . . . . .  757-1769

LAC Representatives
Doris Falkenheimer . . . . .  346-8761
Donna LaFleur . . . . .  892-4492

Board Members at Large
Claudia Husseneider . . . . .  578-1819

The Barred Owl

is published bi-monthly by the Baton Rouge chapter of the NAS. Submissions should be received by:

January 15 for the Feb/March issue
March 15 for the April/May issue
May 15 for the June/July issue
July 15 for the August/September issue
September 15 for the Oct/Nov issue
November 15 for the Dec/Jan issue.

Submissions may be sent via e-mail to vbayless2@cox.net or mailed to:

   Editor, Barred Owl
   Baton Rouge Audubon Society
   P.O. Box 82525
   Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525

Changes of address and other official correspondence should be sent to the mailing address shown above.
2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below) 2004 PATCHES ARE IN (see order form below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>2004 Patch?</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Audubon Society (new members only)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton Rouge Audubon Society (local chapter only)</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing National Audubon Members “BRAS patch option only” (must be a paid member of National Audubon Society)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra 2004 patches (for members only)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Contribution</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRAND TOTAL: $ 

Name: ___________________________ Phone: (_____) 
Address: ________________________ City: ___________ State: ___________ 
E-mail: _________________________ Zip Code: ___________ Local Chapter Code: 7XCH8 K01 

Please send this form to (and make your check out to): Baton Rouge Audubon Society 
P.O. Box 82525 
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525