

The **BARRED OWL**

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society

Volume XXXV, Number 3

3rd Quarter, 2008

EDUCATION IN ACTION:

Westdale Heights Academic Goes For The Birds

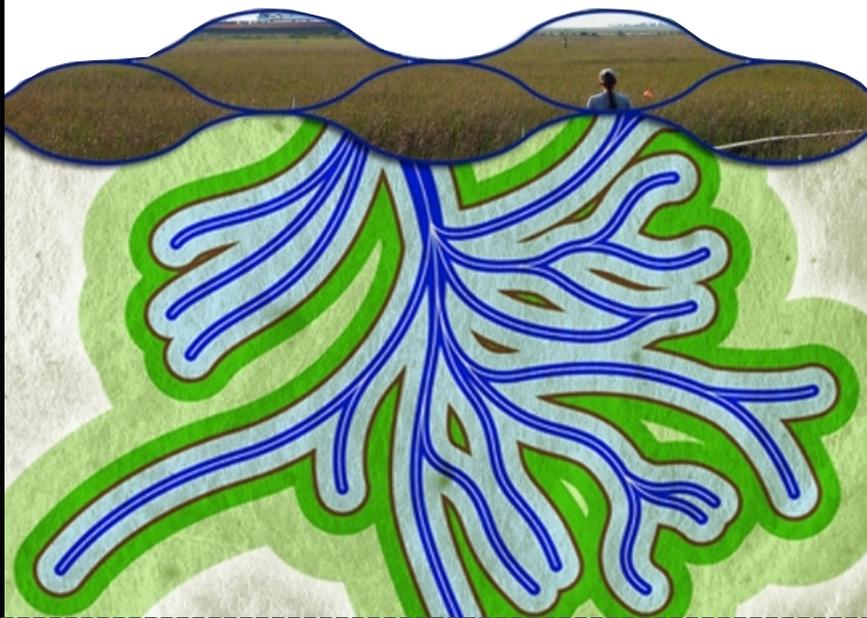
One of the projects of our Education Chair this past quarter was to use a small grant received from National Audubon to create a Birdfeeding Station at a local school. The school is Westdale Heights Academic Magnet and the teacher that responded to the opportunity was Cindy Coffman, 3rd grade teacher at WHAM. Jane was able to purchase a sturdy feeder pole with a baffle, several feeders of different types, hummingbird feed-

ers for the classroom windows, several plants and bird seed for the project. Ms. Coffman's class decided where the pole with feeders should be placed and several of the sturdiest students helped get the pole into the ground (as pictured below). All the students helped with the assembly, filling and hanging feeders, and digging and planting the various plants. We discussed which birds might be attracted to which feeders and noted several birds in vicinity that would be very likely to use the feeders soon! It's almost too bad that the school year has ended... but it will be fun to follow up next fall and see what the kids learn from their new Birdfeeding Station.

Sustainable Management of Deltaic Ecosystems:

Integration of Theory and Practice August 25-26th, 2008

hosted by LSU School of the Coast and Environment
at the LSU Energy, Coast, and Environment Bldg.



For more information, contact Emma Schneider at 225.578-3381



More photos of
BRAS Education In Action
on page 3

President's Report -

Thanks to our members, the annual meeting and spring program was a success. A special thank you goes to ConocoPhillips for sponsoring the food and refreshments that evening. The event was catered by Matherne's and it was delicious. The first annual *Volunteer of the Year Award* was presented at the Annual meeting to Judith O'Neale. Our other award, the first annual *BRAS Volunteer of the Year Award for Lifetime Achievement* went to Dorothy Prowell. Both ladies were given a plaque and thanked for their outstanding achievements.

At the Annual meeting, I was voted in for a second term as President. Other officers elected that evening for 2008-09 are Dave Cagnolatti- Vice President, Jay Guillory – Treasurer and Donna LaFleur –secretary. I want to personally thank outgoing board member/Sanctuary Chair Victoria Bayless for her years of tireless work. Cameron and Peveto Woods was a really difficult situation after Hurricane Rita but Victoria did a wonderful job rallying the troops to clean it up and go forward. We will miss her. Dave Patton has agreed to step in as Sanctuary Chair and we are delighted to have Dave on the board. Thanks again to you both.

One thing BRAS is looking into for the fall is bird seed sales. Many Audubon chapters do this. It seems to serve two purposes: offering bird seed at a discounted price to chapter members and bringing in a few dollars as a fundraiser. If you have any experience with this or would like to become involved with this project please don't hesitate to call me.

Best wishes for a great summer,

Harriett

Baton Rouge Audubon

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The Barred Owl

is published quarterly by the
Baton Rouge chapter of the NAS.
Submissions should be emailed to
brasnews@earthlink.net

Changes of address and other official correspondence should be sent to:

**Baton Rouge
Audubon Society
P.O. Box 67016
Baton Rouge, LA 70896**

Baton Rouge Audubon 2008-2009 Board and Committee Chairs



Front row, left to right: Jane Patterson, Chris Carlton, Lindsay Seeley, Paul Kemp, Harriett Pooler, and Jay Guillory.

Back row, left to right: Robert McLaughlin, Robb Brunson, Dorothy Prowell, Dave Cagnolatti, Melanie Driscoll, and Donna LaFleur

(not pictured: Richard Gibbons, Dave Patton, Eric Liffman)

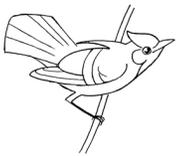
BRAS EDUCATION IN ACTION



BRAS Education Chair Jane Patterson conducts a class for local girl scouts in St. Francisville in early May



BRAS President Harriett Pooler helps with bird identification at Baton Rouge Earth Day. BRAS' booth featured bird ID games for kids and adults alike



BRAS wishes to acknowledge the following for their support of our 2007-2008 Education Program

ConocoPhillips

Downtown Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge
Thank you so much!!!!



Fledgling birders participate in bird identification game at Step Outside Day

Trinidad and Tobago Trip Report

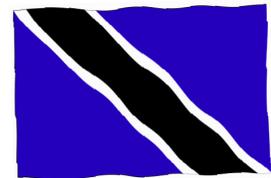
by Karen Fay

When Harriett, our illustrious president, invited me to Trinidad & Tobago, I was a little hesitant. After all, I had been there twice already. But, Harriett's neighbor was working on Trinidad and had offered us a free place to stay. And I had missed Yellow-legged Thrush both times. So the only real question was: when did she want to go? After a little haggling and lots of internet work on Harriett's part, we opted for early March, as long as we got back by her son Matthew's birthday. So off we went, though I really wasn't expecting to see much that was new. Au contraire.

We arrived late on Friday, 29 February, and got picked up at the airport by Ron, Harriett's neighbor. His apartment was on the third floor of a newly constructed building, but they forgot to put in an elevator. I felt bad as he helped lug our heavy bags up the stairs - Harriett was loaded up with care packages from Ron's wife and her bag was just under the 50 lb limit. I also had a large bag to accommodate my tripod. But Ron was really nice and never complained. He even gave up his bed and slept on a mattress on the floor so we wouldn't have to. Then he introduced us to the plumbing, or should I say lack thereof. There was no hot water in either the kitchen or bathroom sinks (I can't imagine doing dishes without hot water). The shower had an inline heater

that was easily overwhelmed by any flow higher than a trickle. And the toilet, well let's just say I never thought I would have to be specially trained to flush a toilet. It's all in the wrist. But we were very glad to be there, grateful to Ron for sharing his place and excited to get started on our birding adventure....

Follow the adventures
of Karen and Harriett on-line at
www.braudubon.org/fieldtrips



What Our Friends Are Doing

The Feliciana Nature Society
will hold their annual
**Feliciana Hummingbird
Celebration**

On Friday, July 25 and
Saturday, July 26, 2008
in St. Francisville, Louisiana.

The festival will begin with a reception on Friday evening, July 25, at Rose-down Plantation State Historic Site, 12501 Hwy. 10, St. Francisville. Beginning at 6 p.m., visitors can enjoy wine and cheese and at 6:45 p.m., Donna Dittmann will present a program on the ornithology collection of the LSU Museum of Natural Science. Admission is \$10.

The festival will continue on Saturday, July 26. From 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., hummingbird biologists Linda Beall and Nancy Newfield will capture and band birds at two private gardens in the St. Francisville area. The gardens include the home of Carlisle Rogillio at 15736 Tunica Trace (Hwy. 66) and Murrell Butler at 9485 Oak Hill Road. Hummingbird-friendly plants as well as crafts and birding optics will also be available for sale. A \$5 fee covers admission to both gardens.

For more information call
1-800-488-6502 or visit
www.audubonbirdfest.com

**Hilltop Arboretum
Livable Louisiana
August 14 and 15**

The Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) is pleased to announce that it will hold its annual smart growth summit August 14 and 15, 2008 at the Manship Theatre at the Shaw Center for the Arts, 100 Lafayette Street, downtown Baton Rouge.

Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, through a grant from the La. Department of Agriculture & Forestry, will sponsor sessions on green building and sustainable landscape design. This year's event, entitled *Livable Louisiana*, will include topics such as green construction, designing communities for aging in place, sustainable landscape design and transportation/roadway connectivity. The summit will target local elected officials; appointed officials, such as planning and zoning commissioners; planning practitioners, such as developers, architects, engineers and planners; and citizen groups - such as civic associations and grassroots committees.

The summit is free of charge
and open to the public.
For more information log onto
www.lsu.edu/hilltop

Thanks to our Members!

Baton Rouge Audubon is appreciative of one and all who make it possible for us to send you this publication, maintain our sanctuaries, and the other projects we undertake on behalf of conservation and birds. We can't do it without you!

April 1, 2008 - June 1, 2008

CERULEAN WARBLER
(\$1000)

Kermit & Dorothy Cummings, Huntsville, TX
John Erffmeyer, Baton Rouge, LA

PAINTED BUNTING
(\$500)

Curtis C. & Helen Sorrells, Kenner, LA
John Turner, Baton Rouge, LA

ROSEBREASTED GROSBEAK
(\$100)

David Cagnolatti, Baton Rouge, LA
Cathy Coates, Baton Rouge, LA
J. W. Nixon, Baton Rouge, LA
Patrick Tandy, Baton Rouge, LA

WOOD THRUSH
(\$50)

Mohamed & Joyce El-Mogazi,
Lake Charles, LA
Judith O'Neale, Lafayette, LA
Dave Patton, Lafayette, LA
Anton Szabados, Barrington, IL

Book Review:

Stalking the Ghost Bird

While attending Louisiana Tech University ten years ago, I did an internship on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge as part of my undergraduate curriculum requirements. I had numerous duties in the position as the Assistant Educational Director, not only including counting gators at night in a canoe and kicking snakes off the trail on our night hikes but also taking phone calls and explaining to people that there are no Ivory-billed Woodpeckers on this land anymore.

But after reading Steinberg's book, *Stalking the Ghost Bird*, I would venture to say that yes, there is definitely a possibility that there are IBWs in the Tensas Basin. This book provides a very detailed account of various sightings throughout the state as well as support to back up these sightings. Each local story brings you deep into the bottomland forests of Louisiana making you feel that you were there seeing the *Lord God Bird* yourself.

Steinberg has done a fabulous job not only in his research but also in his ability to get the point across that Ivory-bills may still be lurking around here. I would call myself one of those "cautiously optimistic" people. If you have not read this book yet, I would definitely recommend it!

Lindsay Seely
Programs Chair



Note on the BRAS Fall Program:

We are currently in the process of working on our fall program, which will be held in October and will focus on the state birding trails program.

More details to come!

Louisiana Audubon Council Quarterly Meeting

by Charles Fryling

The Louisiana Audubon Council (LAC) held its quarterly meeting on May 31 at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Offices in Monroe. Keith Casio the head of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers Program hosted the meeting and gave a presentation on the Scenic Rivers Program. Keeping the state's scenic rivers natural is very important for the protection of birds and wildlife in the Louisiana. Another guest to the meeting was Cheryl Slavant the Ouachita Riverkeeper. Cheryl has been active with LEAN (Louisiana Environmental Action Network) and is now the third Riverkeeper in the State.

The Council has been working on several ongoing environmental issues including the following:

Working with other Louisiana environmental organization to prepare and distribute a Briefing Book for the Louisiana Legislature on environmental issues. The Council was one of the sponsors of the project.

The LAC recommended Chris Piehlerof of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for the Louisiana Wildlife

Federation's awards in the category of professional environmentalist. He went to the top of this list and then was awarded the Governor's Award. Chris works in wetland assimilation and surveillance. He is Chief of Surveillance for air quality for LDEQ.

Coordinated and pushed for the passage of Senate Bill 783 to add 3,000 acres of federally owned land to Jean Lafitte National Park.

Initiated opposition to the Two Lakes project just north of Jackson Mississippi. If the project was to be built it would impact the Pearl River Basin in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Preparing comments on habitat designation for the Louisiana Black Bear. Many potential acres of habitat have been left out of the plan listed in the May 6 Federal Register. The original plan call for 3 million acres and now just looks at 1 million acres.

After the meeting the Council went on a field trip looking at the Monroe Gas Field. Much of this area has become a part of suburban Monroe and many of the residents there do not recognize the Mercury problems in the area.

Sherburne South Farm Woodstorks and More!

Come out to see the migrating Wood Storks as well as many other kinds of shorebirds. It will be warm! Come early and wear sunscreen. Water will be provided.

Date: Saturday, July 19th
Time: 7am – Noon
Place: South Farm - Sherburne Wildlife Management Area

A valid Hunting/Fishing License or Wild Louisiana Stamp is required, except for persons younger than 16 or older than 60 years of age.

Licenses or stamps can be acquired online at www.wlf.louisiana.gov or by telephone at 1-888-765-2602.

For more information contact:
LDWF: 337-948-0255
USACE: 337-585-0853

No registration or fee is required other than the licensing requirement listed above.

To get to the South Farm take the Ramah Exit off I-10 (Exit #135). Head North and follow the signs.

Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Baton Rouge Audubon Society

P.O. Box 67016

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

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Keep Your Membership Current!

If your membership expires, you will no longer receive *The Barred Owl!* Well, eventually we take your name off the list. It is expensive to produce and membership dues help to cover that cost. Please see the expiration code on the first line of the label above your name. BRAS-only subscriptions will identify the month and year in which your membership expires (e.g. BRAS Dec. 2006). We are working on updating NAS memberships to show the same (e.g. NAS Dec. 2006).

Keeping your membership current is important!

BRAS and National Audubon Membership

You may join NAS by going to their website (audubon.org) and you automatically become a member of both NAS and BRAS. You will receive the quarterly award-winning *Audubon* magazine as well as the quarterly BRAS newsletter, *The Barred Owl*.

Patches Extra sanctuary patches or patches for NAS members are \$10 each and can be ordered by mailing the form below. If you are joining BRAS and want a free patch, you must put "1" in the blank.

BRAS Only Membership

If you want all of your dues to support local conservation and education, join BRAS only. You will NOT receive the *Audubon* magazine. You WILL receive *The Barred Owl* and a free sanctuary patch. You may join on-line at any level by visiting our website www.braudubon.org, or send this form with your check to: BRAS, P.O. Box 67016, BR LA 70896.

Baton Rouge Audubon Society (BRAS)

Please enroll me as a member of BRAS! Enclosed is my check for:

- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$50 Wood Thrush Membership
- \$100 Rose-breasted Grosbeak Membership
- \$250 Louisiana Waterthrush Membership
- \$500 Painted Bunting Membership
- \$1000 Cerulean Warbler Membership
- \$ _____ Additional Contribution
- # _____ of patches (indicate 1 which is free with BRAS membership; additional patches \$10 each; NAS member patches @ \$10 each; no patch will be sent if there is no indication.)

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

MAIL COMPLETE FORM TO:
Baton Rouge Audubon Society; PO Box 67016; Baton Rouge, LA 70896