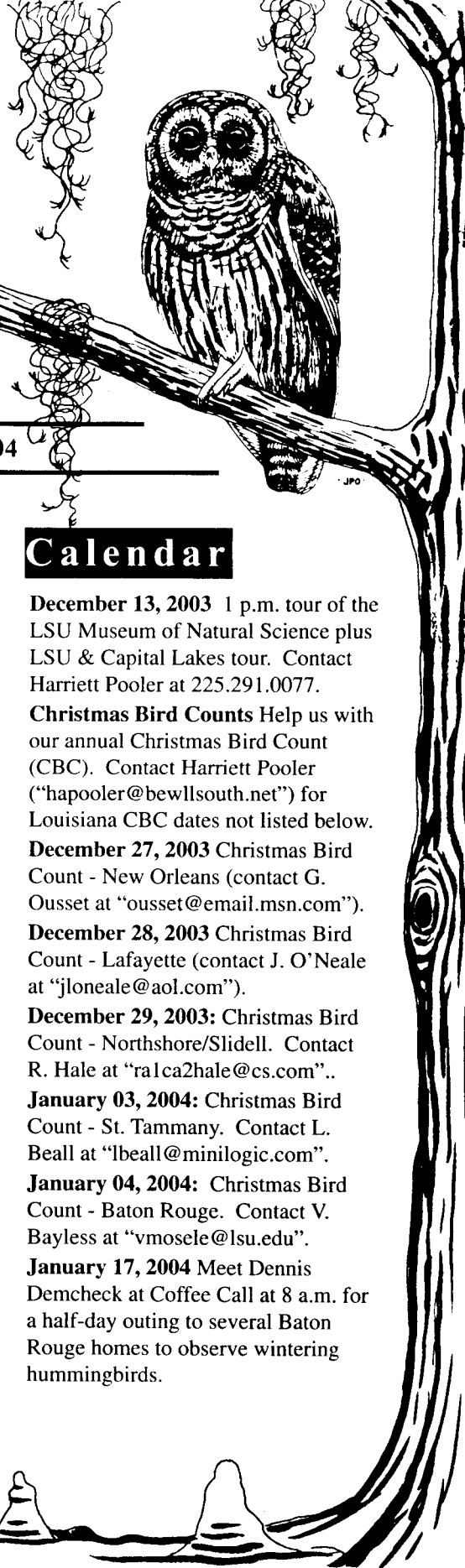


# The **BARRED OWL**

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society

Volume XXVIX, Number 6    December 2003 / January 2004



JPO

## President's Message

by Dorothy Prowell

If you missed the BRAS Fall Program we had in October, you missed a good time. About 60 of us gathered at Hilltop Arboretum to view artwork by Donna Dittmann, John O'Neill, Doug Pratt, and Krista Roche and to bid on 33 other pieces of art donated by local and regional artists. Most of us bought beautiful art at bargain prices. We ate great food prior to an inspired talk by



Van Remsen on the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Many thanks to Van and the following people for art donations: Victoria Moseley Bayless, Bienville Frame Shop, Murrell Butler, Sharen Carter, Donna Dittmann, Charles Fryling, C.C. Lockwood, Nancy Lowe, Joe MacGown, John O'Neill, Judith O'Neale, Doug Pratt, Krista Roche, David Sandfer, and Claudette & Robert St. Amant. We not only had fun, but we netted about \$450!

We're planning a Spring Program for April. We'll be flying in a bird song expert, Daniel Edelstein, from the bay area of California to give an evening presentation on bird biology and songs. The next day he'll conduct a workshop on how to identify birds by their songs and, perhaps more challenging, how to remember them the next time. We'll have more on that as it unfolds.

BRAS is about to make a move on some land in Cameron Parish. To raise funds to pay for protection of the property, we'll be embarking on our first fund raising effort in 5 or so years. You'll be getting that request soon so please consider contributing to our land acquisition efforts. BRAS has low operating costs and no overhead so you get a large return on your investment. We depend on your generosity to

see "President's Message" on page 2

## Calendar

**December 13, 2003** 1 p.m. tour of the LSU Museum of Natural Science plus LSU & Capital Lakes tour. Contact Harriett Pooler at 225.291.0077.

**Christmas Bird Counts** Help us with our annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Contact Harriett Pooler ("hapooler@bewllsouth.net") for Louisiana CBC dates not listed below.

**December 27, 2003** Christmas Bird Count - New Orleans (contact G. Ousset at "ousset@email.msn.com").

**December 28, 2003** Christmas Bird Count - Lafayette (contact J. O'Neale at "jloneale@aol.com").

**December 29, 2003:** Christmas Bird Count - Northshore/Slidell. Contact R. Hale at "ralca2hale@cs.com"..

**January 03, 2004:** Christmas Bird Count - St. Tammany. Contact L. Beall at "lbeall@minilogic.com".

**January 04, 2004:** Christmas Bird Count - Baton Rouge. Contact V. Bayless at "vmosele@lsu.edu".

**January 17, 2004** Meet Dennis Demcheck at Coffee Call at 8 a.m. for a half-day outing to several Baton Rouge homes to observe wintering hummingbirds.

# President's Message

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make a difference for birds and other wildlife!

On a related note, management of our sanctuary properties is becoming more and more costly. For example, maintenance fees for Peveto Woods are about \$5000 per year for insurance, waste management, mowing, and general upkeep. That doesn't include the cost of the beautiful new sign at the highway or the interpretive panel that is in the works for the kiosk. We are dedicating most of our existing Sanctuary Fund to a Sanctuary Endowment account to generate enough interest to pay for and secure management of our sanctuaries into the future. Thus the need for additional funds for land acquisitions.

That's about all I can think of on the BRAS front. Have a great holiday season! I expect to squeeze in a CBC or two. Hope to see some of you then.

## Membership Renewals

It's time for many of you to renew your Baton Rouge Audubon Membership. If there is one asterisk by your name on the address label of this newsletter your membership expires on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Please take the time to mail in the tear-off membership form on the backside of this Barred Owl.

If your address label has two asterisks, our records show that you were not listed as a National Audubon Society member as of the end of June 2003. If you renewed since then, you're okay but if not please join via NAS (at their website or in response to one of their letters reminding you). Thanks.

# Sanctuary Report

by Victoria Bayless

**DEER FLIES:** Well, the neo-tropical migrants have come and gone from Peveto Woods for the year. I hope the deer flies (which were particularly bad this year), did not deter too many of you from enjoying our Sanctuary. Thanks to all who put their dollars in the donation box during the LOS weekend.



**THE FALL ART AUCTION:** Sharen Carter, the artist that painted our original artwork for the new interpretive panel was on hand to unveil her fabulous rendition of our sanctuary and seven neo-tropical migrants that are commonly seen at Peveto Woods. The paintings were completely breathtaking. As soon as I get the wording of the panel complete and sent to Jay Miller of Interpretive Panels, we will have our panel ready to install. I hope by the printing of the next Barred Owl I will be able to tell you all to head down to the Sanctuary and see it in person. The art auction was a great success (see the president's message for more details.) Thanks to all of you for your donations and for all of those who bid on the beautiful nature art available.

**DONATION LETTER:** Soon you will be receiving a letter from the Baton Rouge Audubon Board requesting your financial support (see "President's Message"). One of the important projects that we are in the process of accomplishing is setting up an endowment for the maintenance of Peveto Woods. We still encourage volunteer time to help out at the Sanctuary, but as you all know, the distance between Baton Rouge and Peveto Woods Sanctuary is (even as the crow flies) quite a ways. It makes it difficult for our members to spend much time working there. We want to make sure that even in the future with new members and new officers that the Sanctuary will always have funds to keep the trails open for birders and keep the fences in place to protect it from cattle as well as pay insurance so we can make it available to the birding public. Please keep a look out for your letter and give what you can. On Thanksgiving day, I will be giving thanks to all of you, who through your time and money have shown that you too believe in the importance of saving critical habitat in order to help our migratory birds on their long journeys back and forth across the Gulf.

**BATON ROUGE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** I am the compiler this year for the Baton Rouge CBC. If any of you want to participate please contact me soon [vmosele@lsu.edu](mailto:vmosele@lsu.edu) or 225-757-1769. The count will be on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Holidays,

Victoria

**FIELD TRIPS** by Harriett Pooler

All field trips cost \$1 per person and are open to the general public as well as to Audubon members.



**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

If you are interested in participating in the following local counts, please contact the area compiler listed under the "Calendar" column on the front page.

**LSU Museum of Natural Science / LSU & Capital Lakes Tour**

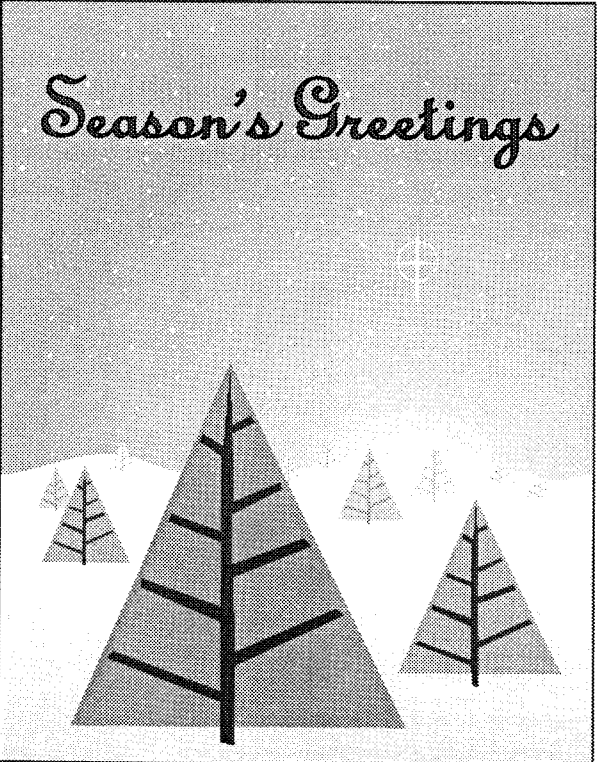
Meet at LSU's Museum of Natural History at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 (go to the entrance by Peabody Hall parking lot - off Dalrymple). Join LSU ornithologist Van Remsen on a behind the scenes tour of LSU's extensive collection of birds and bird skins from Louisiana and around the world. This area is usually off limits to the public. After the museum tour, we'll head to the lakes to see wintering ducks. Some species we might see include Ruddy ducks, Greater Scaup, Ring-necked duck, and Hooded Merganser. Bring water and a spotting scope if you have one. Call Harriett at 225.291.0077 if you have questions.

**Wintering Hummingbirds**

Join us for a leisurely half-day outing to three or four Baton Rouge homes to observe wintering hummingbirds. The trip will be two weeks after the Baton Rouge Christmas Bird Count, so we will have a reasonably good idea where the best birds are. Last year we saw three species: Rufous, Calliope, and Buff-bellied. Black-chinned and an adult male Anna's were present at two of the homes visited but eluded observation. The trip will focus on homes with hummingbirds that have a high probability of being easily

seen.° If the Christmas Bird Count discovers a beauty like a Broad-billed, and the property owner consents, we will certainly try to add it to our route.

Meet at Coffee Call on January 17th at 8 am.° The trip usually ends at noon, but can extend until 1 p.m. if we have good luck observing hummers. Be prepared for cold or wet weather.



**BRAS Directory**

**Officers**

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

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

**Board Members at Large**

- Claudia Husseneder . . . . . 578-1819

**LAC Representatives**

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

**The Barred Owl**

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 May 15 for the June/July issue  
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 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.