

# The **BARRED OWL**

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society

Volume XXVIX, Number 5

October / November 2003

## President's Message

by Dorothy Prowell

The BRAS board is hard at work on a great program for the fall. On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Rensen (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 3<sup>rd</sup> (that's FRIDAY starting at noon this year) and 4<sup>th</sup>. 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



## Calendar

**September 30** National Wildlife Refuge System 100th Anniversary Celebration. 7 - 8 p.m. Greenwell Springs Road Regional Library

**October 3 - 4** "Plantfest" - Plant sale at Hilltop Arboretum. Noon - 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday.

**October 3 - 5** "Wings Over The Wetlands" birding festival in the town of Jean Lafitte and the Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, 20 miles south of New Orleans. See

[www.wowbirdfest.com](http://www.wowbirdfest.com) for details.

**October 4** Magnificent Migrations: Workshops at the Smith Point Hawk Watch, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Southwestern Chambers County, Texas, 40 miles east of Houston (979.480.0999).

**October 15** BRAS board meeting at 7 p.m. Dorothy Prowell's house (4644 Arrowhead Street, 923.1070)

**October 17** Nature Art Auction at Hilltop Arboretum (this is a Friday).

**October 18** BRAS field trip to Richfield Riversilt. Meet 7 a.m. at Coffee Call (see page 4).

**November 1** HUMMINGBIRD field trip to St. Gabriel. Meet 7 a.m. at Coffee Call (see page 4).



## President's Message

*continued from Page 1*

(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](mailto:dprowe@lsu.edu)) or Victoria (757-1769 or [vmosele@lsu.edu](mailto:vmosele@lsu.edu)) or any of the other board members by 7PM on Sat., Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 by Mark Skinner

### Coastal Update / Election 2003



*Conservation chair Mark Skinner*

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 Breaux 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 Caernarvon.

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 the bobcat 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 furbearers. 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.

*see "Conservation Report" on page 3*

# 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](mailto:dprowe@lsu.edu)) or  
Victoria (757-1769 or [vmosele@lsu.edu](mailto:vmosele@lsu.edu))*

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

**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 care taker) 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 [vmosele@lsu.edu](mailto:vmosele@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 Falkenheiner . . . . . 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 Falkenheiner . . . . . 346-8761

Donna LaFleur . . . . . 892-4492

## Board Members at Large

Claudia Husseneder . . . . . 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](mailto: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.

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**BATON ROUGE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

| Membership Type  | Amount   | 2004 Patch?    | Total    |
|--|----------|----------------|----------|
| ___ National Audubon Society (new members only)  | \$20     | ___ Yes ___ No | _____    |
| ___ Baton Rouge Audubon Society (local chapter only)   | \$20     | ___ Yes ___ No | _____    |
| ___ Continuing National Audubon Members "BRAS patch option only" (must be a paid member of National Audubon Society) | \$10     | ___ Yes ___ No | _____    |
| ___ Extra 2004 patches (for members only)  | \$10     | ___ Yes        | _____    |
| ___ Additional Contribution  | \$ _____ |                |          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>  |          |                | \$ _____ |

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**  
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525