

Newsletter of the Orleans Audubon Society.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Volume: XXXVIII Issue: 1

September 2019/November 2019

Wine and Cheese Party

Tuesday, September 17

7-8:30 p.m.

Community Church Unitarian Universalist, 6690 Fleur de Lis
(Lakeview).

R.S.V.P. to Mary Joe Krieger, 504-866-3396, maryjkrieger@gmail.com before September 12th.



Our annual fall social event is open to Orleans Audubon Society and Crescent Bird Club members and friends. This interesting mix of people includes beginner to expert birders, wildlife gardeners, outdoor enthusiasts, ornithologists, botanists, conservationists and ecologists.

Feliciano Hummingbird Festival

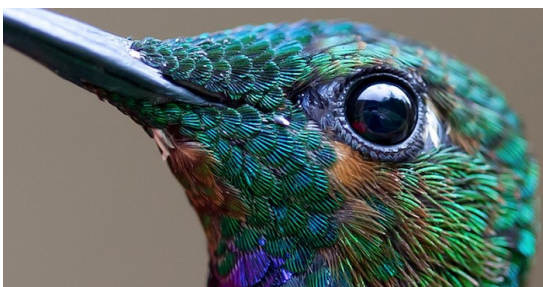
Date: Saturday, September 14th

Location: 15736 Tunica Trace, Tunica, LA, on Highway 66

Time: 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Hummingbirds are miraculous creatures. They are swift, colorful, can dart about and can even fly backwards. They also beat their tiny wings some 50 times per second! Visitors will see hummingbirds up close and personal by coming to the land where Audubon taught and did much of his work. Each year, National WildBird Refuge hosts this hummingbird celebration at their 400-acre site in the heart of the beautiful Tunica Hills near beautiful St. Francisville.

Master hummingbird bander, Marty Floyd, will set special traps to catch and band the birds while visitors look on. Many get the opportunity to hold the little jewels in their hand and release them back to the wild.



At the site there will be tents with vendors and exhibits. Vendors will be selling plants that hummingbird love; **Wild Birds Unlimited** will have all sorts of birding equipment, feeders, binoculars, etc. at their tent; and much, much more. Free admission. For more information, contact: Carlyle Rogillio, nwr-raw@att.net, (225) 655-4674.

OAS-CBC Joint Fall Banquet

Tuesday, October 15

Location: Augie's Restaurant, 6005 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123

Cash bar at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., program at 8:00 p.m.

Gardeners in a Costa Rican Paradise: Skutch, Wilson, and Some Exemplary Austrians

Presenter: Wendy Rihner

What would you do if you had a few acres on the southern edge of Costa Rica? Alexander Skutch, Robert Wilson, and Michael Schnitzler knew what they would do, and many people remain ever thankful. When we think of botanical gardens, we do not often think of them being located in the tropics, especially in rural or agricultural areas. But because of their foresight, Skutch, Wilson, and Schnitzler provided birders and botanists alike three of the world's most glorious tropical gardens in which to study the relationships between birds and plants. Rihner will take us on a tour of these garden paradises through photography and the written word, highlighting birds like the Yellow-billed Cotinga, the Fiery-billed Aracari, the Speckled Tanager and the plants they require, while also sharing with us Skutch's descriptive and often quite lyrical discussions of these birds.

Menu:

Catfish Lafitte - Fried Catfish topped with a Creamy Crawfish Sauce, served with Potatoes and a Vegetable Medley

Veal Parmesan - Panned Baby Veal, topped with Melted Mozzarella Cheese, served with Angel Hair Pasta and Marinara Sauce

Chicken St. Charles - Baked Boneless Chicken Breast topped with a Creamy Shrimp Sauce, served with Potatoes and a Vegetable Medley

Vegan, Gluten-free - grilled vegetables

Cost: \$25/person up to October 5. \$30/person October 6-12. No reservations accepted after October 12. ***See reservation form.***

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Birding Field Trips

Birding field trips are co-hosted with the Crescent Bird Club. All are welcome. Bring binoculars, field guides, bug spray, rain gear, sunscreen and refreshments. Boots and walkie talkies may be useful. Snacks and drinks are recommended. For trip information, contact the leader. A Wild Louisiana Stamp is required for field trips to Louisiana's Wildlife Management Areas for those under 60 years of age. The stamp can be purchased at WalMart, Puglia's Sporting Goods, 1925 Veterans Blvd., or on-line from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Couturie Forest, City Park (Half-day Trip)

Saturday, September 28

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the Couturie parking lot on Harrison Ave. just east of the police stables and City Park volunteer house.

Leaders: Joelle Finley & Ken Harris (504) 715-2647

Grand Isle (Full Day Trip)

Saturday, October 19

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Moran's grocery/gas station on the corner of Hwy. 1 and Hwy 3090 (Fourchon Rd.) right where you come off of the new bridge. Note: The new bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway is a toll bridge. You can pay your toll at the toll booth at the bridge.

Leader: Grand Isle's own Casey Wright (504) 343-6225

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge

SUNDAY, November 3

Time: 8:00 a.m., Half-day Trip

Meet at the Bayou Ridge Trail entrance located on US 90 (Chef Menteur Highway) across from Recovery Road in New Orleans East. Exit I-510; go left on Hwy 90, about 4 miles to parking area on the left.

Leader: Peter Yaukey (504) 400-3286

Diamond/Venice

Saturday, November 9

Time: 8:00 a.m., Full Day Trip

Cross the Crescent City Connection, On Westbank Exp. exit Hwy 23 (Lafayette St/Bell Chase Hwy), drive 5 miles and meet in Balestra's Associated Grocery parking lot, on the right just past the Intersection with Hwy 406 (Woodland Hwy)

Leaders: Joelle Finley and Ken Harris (504) 715-2647

St. Bernard

Saturday, November 16

Time: 8:00 a.m., Half-day Trip

Meet at Walgreen's on the corner of Paris Rd. and Judge Perez in Chalmette.

Leader: Glenn Ousset (504) 495-4284

Louisiana Ornithological Society Fall Meeting

Cameron, LA,
October 25-26

Check the LOS
Website <http://www.losbird.org> or
contact Joelle Finley
at (504) 715-2647,
jjf1946@gmail.com

Bird Festivals and Events

CANCELED EDITION: THE ART OF BIRDING

Pippin Frisbie-Calder

September 7 - September 28th

On display at the St Tammany Art Association for the month of September this solo show features many local birds, screen-printed and hand cut!



Opening Reception

Saturday, September 14th | 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Artist Talk with Pippin Frisbie-Calder

Saturday, September 14th | 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Ornithological Panel Discussion

Saturday, September 21st | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Featuring ornithologists Dr. Donata Henry and Dr. Jennifer Coulson with artist Pippin Frisbie-Calder

Location | St Tammany Art Association

Art House, 320 N. Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433

Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm; Saturday 11 am - 4pm

985.892.8650

Artist's Statement:

Most of the birds visible on the exhibit wall travel thousands of miles each year, crossing the Gulf of Mexico each fall to spend the winter in Central and/or South America (neotropical). These migrants return each spring to breed in North America, some nesting far north as Canada or Greenland (nearctic). Whether we know it or not, these Neotropical-Nearctic migrants connect us to the global community, every year bringing stories of habitat and climate with them. Living in the Anthropocene, the age in which human activity is the dominant factor in changing the climate and natural environment, it is important to revel in the beauty of the world, to understand what we currently have, and to gain a sense of stewardship for natural spaces. Wander into a city park or a forested grove and you could very well see one or more of these birds. However, projected outcomes for 2050 and 2080 show 55% to 100% habitat loss in the summer or winter grounds for most neotropical birds. Some birds may be able to adapt, to shift north, others will diminish in numbers or go extinct.

Environmentalism has often been illustrated by a good/bad dynamic: paper or plastic, poach or conserve. But the science of a warming planet shows the nuances of the collective consequences of 7.5 billion of us. This piece intends to lift the shroud of innocence and demonstrate that in a world shedding species at an hourly rate, we are all active players.

Canceled Edition explores innate human desires with the hope that a more honest understanding of those desires can contribute to a better understanding of how we live on this planet. What does a person in Covington have to do with a bird in a swamp downriver? Southern Louisiana faces some of the highest rates of sea level rise on the planet. Each of our actions collectively contribute to the rising of those seas and the lives of beings thousands of miles away.

Also endangered, the field of printmaking contends with the dominance of the digital in the 21st century. This exhibit celebrates printmaking with each color layer manually screen printed for each bird as well as the wallpaper. Using screen print and woodcut practices, and with hundreds of labor hours hand cutting, the exhibition uses print technology to imagine the future.

Fall Migration Surprises from Tracked Swallow-tailed Kites

By Jennifer Coulson

OAS has studied Swallow-tailed Kite migration using GPS-satellite transmitters since 2011. This fall we discovered that we still have much to learn about kite migration ecology. Each of the four adults OAS is currently monitoring took a different approach when navigating the Gulf of Mexico. These adults produced Gulf migration tracks resembling a hurricane spaghetti model!

The first two kites to depart the breeding grounds circumnavigated the Gulf of Mexico. *Bayou Vincent* did not breed in 2019, and perhaps this is why she was the first to leave the breeding grounds. When she departed the Lake Pontchartrain Basin on July 9th, she headed east to Florida, then she turned south along the Florida peninsula and joined a big pre-migration roost there. After socializing with other kites, she continued along the eastern circum-Gulf route, departing peninsular Florida on July 25th. She traveled 150 miles over water as she crossed the Straits of Florida. Next she passed over western Cuba before flying over water again to reach the Yucatán Peninsula late on July 26th. *Lacombe* had two fledglings to care for, and migrated later. He left the Lake Pontchartrain Basin on August 1st, heading westward over land, along the western circum-Gulf overland route. He remained over land, mostly following the gulf coast through southwest Louisiana and coastal Texas. He crossed into Mexico on August 6th. He continued to follow the gulf coast southward through Mexico, avoiding the Yucatán Peninsula, and passing through northern Guatemala instead.

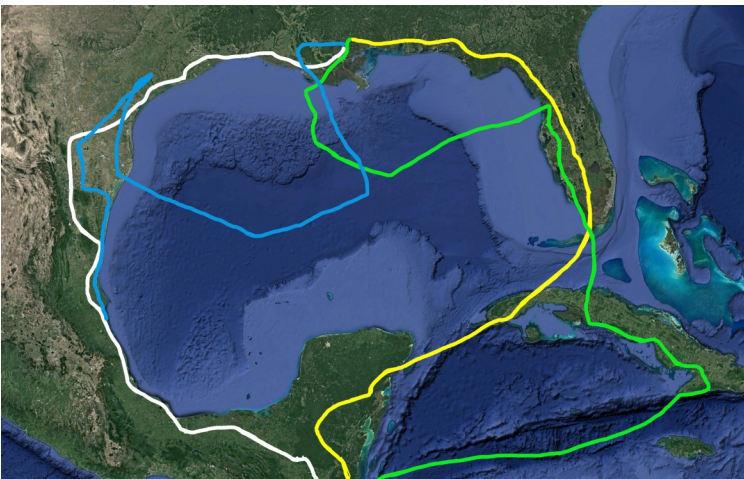
Here's where it gets really interesting. The remaining two kites, both males, launched off from Louisiana near the Isles Dernieres in August and started but aborted the trans-Gulf migration route. *Hobolochitto* fledged one young. On July 26 he headed west to spend some time in the Atchafalaya Basin in a known kite area. Then on August 6th he embarked on a southerly course into the Gulf. However, on August 8, after making it about 265 miles offshore, nearly half-way across the Gulf, he turned abruptly westward. He made landfall on August 9th in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

My husband, Tom, and I, assisted by Andy and Jeanne Licausi, captured *Ponchitolawa* in May near Covington. Even though *Ponchitolawa*'s nest failed during the egg stage, he was the last of the tagged adults to migrate. On August 13th, he left the Lake Pontchartrain Basin and headed toward Louisiana's coastline. Two days later, he initiated the trans-Gulf crossing, heading on a mostly southerly track. On August 16th, approximately 135 miles offshore, he turned eastward to make landfall in Citrus County, Florida on August 18th. He then traveled over land, flying southward along the gulf coast of the Florida peninsula. On August 22nd, *Ponchitolawa* passed through Long Key and crossed the Straits of Florida (a water crossing of 126 miles) to make landfall in Cuba on August 23rd. Unlike most kites, *Ponchitolawa* spent a few days in Cuba, perhaps enticed by Joelle's spring banquet talk... After heading south along Cuba's gulf coast he ventured another water crossing on August 26th, reaching southern Belize on August 27th.

I'm still scouring weather data to determine why the *Hobolochitto* and *Ponchitolawa* veered off course mid-Gulf. Recreating mid-Gulf winds at kite-flying altitudes is not as simple as it might seem. The nearest available weather data is from a mid-Gulf buoy where winds are measured near the surface. I know from 23 years of airplane surveys that wind speeds are typically much higher up at the altitudes where kites fly. Buoy data indicate that *Hobolochitto* headed into the Gulf facing a head wind. His GPS track shows that he slowed down considerably before abandoning the trans-Gulf route, so the headwind he faced was likely much stronger than what the buoy's sensor measured. To be continued.

OAS needs funding to continue the GPS-

satellite tracking project. Data retrieval for each tagged kite costs \$70.00/month or \$850.00/year. To contribute to this project, send a check payable to "Orleans Audubon Society" and write "Adopt-a-Kite" on the memo line. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Mail the check to: Mary Joe Krieger, OAS Treasurer, 3623 Nashville Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125.



Tracks of Swallow-tailed Kites during the 2019 fall migration. yellow = *Bayou Vincent*, white = *Lacombe*; blue = *Hobolochitto*; green = *Ponchitolawa*

"Geaux Grow Natives!"

Project Update

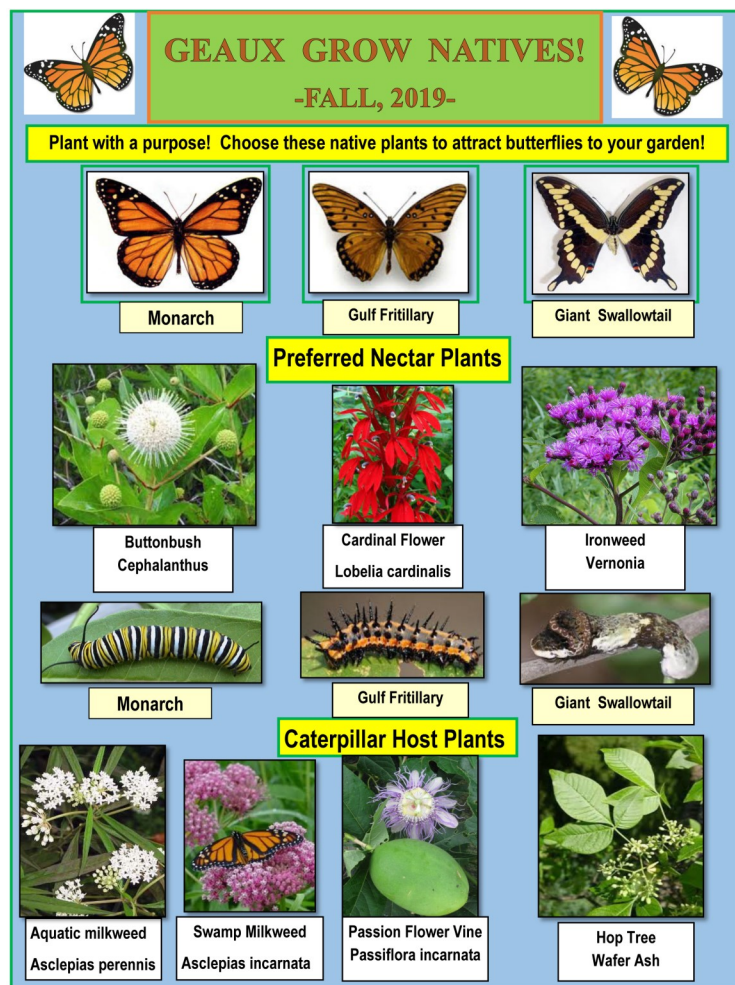
by Linda B. Auld, "BugLady"

The cooler days of September are a time to get out to the garden with shovel and gloves. We will revive the plants that passed the grueling test of thriving on neglect while we were inside trying to stay cool. Many of our pretty annual plants having done their job of giving us bright colors all summer, will be sort of peaked out.

Meanwhile the report on my "*Geaux Grow Natives!*" Spring Showcase plants is this: "*They are rocking and a-rolling!*" Garden Phlox, Purple Coneflowers and Slender Mountain Mint (the three chosen nectar plants) are all in full bloom and are being visited daily by hungry butterflies plus other pollinators. Aquatic and Swamp milkweeds (*Asclepias perennis* and *incarnata*), the two native milkweed choices, have been very successful in attracting female Monarch butterflies to lay their eggs and the caterpillars have eaten them down to sticks. Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) is calling female Cloudless Sulphur and Sleepy Orange butterflies to lay their eggs.

"*Geaux Grow Natives!*" project has stimulated both interest and conversation in our local gardening community. More and more folks are asking their nurseries for native plants! But before we say, "Mission accomplished!" Let's get ready for round two: the **Fall Plants Showcase**. The three suggested nectar plant additions to your fall garden are Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and Ironweed (*Vernonia*). The white globular buttonbush flowers are packed with pollen. On our woodland hikes we see a variety of skippers, bees, and butterflies enjoying the nectar of these unique blossoms. The bright red Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is a favorite of the Sulphur butterflies and should be planted close to the Partridge Pea. Planting the preferred nectar and host plants together will insure better butterfly visitation. Ironweed is the perfect invitation for late summer/autumn butterflies. These tall, gorgeous purple flower heads reaching high into the sky provide a landing pad for the larger swallowtails such as Giant and Tiger. Buckeye butterflies also adore the pollen.

As far as the four caterpillar host plants, the two native milkweeds, Aquatic and Swamp, will be repeated since many gardeners are still in the transition of changing out their tropical milkweed to native varieties to lessen the chance of transmitting the Monarch's O.E. parasite over winter. Coupled with these two are the Passion flower vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) for the Gulf Fritillary and the Hop tree or Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) for the Giant Swallowtail. If you're lucky, you might one day find both Gulf and Variegated Fritillary caterpillars on your passion flower vines. They appear to have stinging barbs but they do NOT have the ability to sting. It's their natural defense to trick predators. The Giant Swallowtail caterpillar, on the other hand, uses the "*I'm a bird poop*" defense. Isn't nature grand? So well planned and balanced. And all of this fascinating activity can begin merely by creating the invitation with these plants. Share your love of nature with everyone you know by helping promote the right native plant selection for maximum benefit.



Want a piece of this action? Want to know where and when you can get these plants? The fun begins on Saturday, September 7 then every Saturday of that month you can find me at the following dates, locations and times.

Fall 2019 Plant Promotional Tour Dates

Sept. 7	Jefferson Feed	9:00 am - 11:30 am
	Double M Feed	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Sept. 14	Crosby Arboretum	9:30 am - 12 noon
Sept. 21	Harold's Plants	9:00 am - 11:30 am
	Rose Garden Center	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Sept. 28	Clegg's Siegen Lane	9:30 am - 12 noon
	Clegg's- Denham Springs	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

New Orleans City Park - Botanical Garden Fall Garden Show

Saturday, October 5: Linda Auld, "BugLady" will speak about her ongoing "Geaux Grow Natives!" project followed by "BugLady's Butterfly Summer" book signing.

Participating locations:

Barber Laboratories, 6444 Jefferson Highway, Harahan, 504-739-5715
 Charvet's Nursery, 4511 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, 504-888-7700
 Clegg's Nursery, 5696 Siegen Lane, Baton Rouge, 225-292-9153
 Clegg's Nursery, 10645 Greenwell Springs Rd., Baton Rouge, 225-275-7006
 Clegg's Nursery, 31275 LA Hwy. 16, Denham Springs, 225-791-6060
 Clegg's Nursery, 274 N. Donmoor, Baton Rouge, 225-927-1419
 Crosby Arboretum, 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS, 985-641-3600
 Double M Feed, 8400 Jefferson Hwy, Harahan, 504-738-5007
 Harold's Plants, 1135 Press Street, New Orleans, 504-947-7554
 Jefferson Feed, 4421 Jefferson Hwy, Jefferson, 504-733-8572
 LongueVue Gardens, 7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans, 504-488-5488
 Options, Inc., 19362 W. Shelton Rd., Hammond, LA, 985-345-6269
 Pelican Greenhouse, # 2 Celebration Drive, New Orleans, 504-483-9437
 Rose Garden Center, 4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, 504-341-5664

All of the plants are being grown locally. Support your local garden centers and growers by adding some of the Fall Plant Selection. Enhance your garden diversity by trying these natives. You will be amazed at all the new critters that will accept the invitation to your garden party.

My new book, *"BugLady's Butterfly Summer"* will also be available for sale and will be personally signed by the author! It is 15 short stories about raising butterflies accompanied by 31 color plates of what I raised. It's packed with information on range, habitat, host plants, life cycles and fun facts. Go adventuring with me on woodland trails and in my garden. Be fascinated by the butterflies and caterpillars I discover. Hope to see you at one of the plant promotion tour stops!

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The SE Louisiana Chapter of the
National Audubon Society

Orleans Audubon Society
3623 Nashville Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

New Orleans, LA

Permit No. 1435

Banquet reservations must be RECEIVED by October 5

\$25/person on or before October 5th

\$30/person October 6th -October 12th

No reservations after October 12th—no exceptions

Clip and mail with check payable to Orleans Audubon Society to: Mary Joe Krieger, 3623 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125; (504) 866-3396, maryjkrieger@gmail.com

Banquet: _____ persons @ \$25.00 \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

_____ persons @ \$30.00 \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Names of people attending the Banquet:

Entrée Choice: #1 Catfish Lafitte _____

#2 Veal Parmesan _____

#3 Chicken St. Charles _____

4 Vegan, vegetarian, gluten free _____