

Online Raptor Identification Workshop

Instructors: Jennifer and Tom Coulson

Date: Tuesday, May 19

Time: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.



In this 45-minute long, online workshop, raptor biologists Jennifer and Tom Coulson will talk about their basic approach to raptor identification, a strategy which differs from that of most field guides. They will provide a number of novel tips for identifying our native diurnal birds of prey. Jennifer will also show participants how to use free, online resources to sharpen raptor and bird identification skills.

The Coulsons are true “raptorophiles” who have spent much of their lives studying and working with birds of prey. Their long-term population ecology study of the Swallow-tailed Kite began in 1995. Their research has since expanded to include investigations into this kite’s migration ecology, predators and parasites. Jennifer spearheads OAS’s Bald Eagle nest monitoring project and is a licensed raptor bander. The Coulsons have co-authored scientific papers on cooperative hunting in Harris’s Hawks. Jennifer also studies cleaning symbioses between raptors and mammals, hybridization in raptors, breeding behaviors of Ornate Hawk-Eagles, and heritable variation in Harris’s Hawks. In addition, Tom and Jennifer are falconers who breed birds of prey in captivity. They co-authored a 661-page book about the use of Harris’s Hawks in falconry.

How to participate: All are welcome. No registration is required. There is no limit to the number of participants, so please share this announcement widely. We advise that you click on the link a few minutes ahead of the workshop’s starting time. Once you’ve clicked on the link, either click on “open zoom.us” or you may need to download the Zoom app to join the meeting. If prompted to download the Zoom app, it takes less than a minute to do so.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://tulane.zoom.us/j/95999304936>

Meeting ID: 959 9930 4936



Learn why this is a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk

"DOWNTOWN BUTTERFLIES" by Linda Barber Auld, NOLA BugLady

A Visit to Tulane River and Coastal Center



Long-Tailed Skipper



Black Swallowtail



Monarch



On Sunday, April 19 I visited the Tulane River and Coastal Center garden where the Native Plant Initiative met back in June of 2019. I wanted to see this oasis nestled next to Mardi Gras World and the Mississippi River to see how the plants were liking their home in the downtown concrete jungle.

This native plant smorgasbord garden was sponsored by Tulane Bywater Institute and was planted by Tulane folks assisted by Susan Norris-Davis. She told me, " My connection here is that Mark Davis, my husband, is the current director of the Bywater Institute and he asked me to help install the garden." Here's a link: bywater.tulane.edu

Once a week Susan has been volunteering her time to tend this garden and her tender loving care has created a spot for nature's creatures to thrive. Seeing green plants and flowers in an area totally surrounded by buildings and paved streets not only provides sustenance for butterflies and pollinators but also brings smiles to human faces!

This garden is another perfect example of the saying, "*Plant it and they will come!*" During her weekly visits, Susan has enjoyed seeing Long-tailed Skippers collecting nectar from flowers plus she found a clutch of eggs on the Wisteria vine and a fat Black Swallowtail caterpillar! During my visit even though the weather was cloudy and windy, I saw a trio of insects: Lady bugs, Groundsel Bugs, and some Honey Bees. However what really caught my attention was the sea of native Aquatic milkweed sticks with twenty-two fat Monarchs chewing every last leaf. Insects have found this oasis and are benefiting from its bounty! When adding native plants to your garden, you will be successful growing them if you can replicate the growing conditions these plants use in nature's varying habitats. Seeing these plants in action displayed in public locations also helps gardeners to determine which ones they would like to add to their own gardens as an invitation to enhance their butterfly and pollinator activity.

The impressive current plant list at this garden:

American Wisteria *Wisteria frutescens*
Aquatic Milkweed *Asclepias perennis*
Azure Sage *Salvia azurea*
Blue-Eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium spp.*
Blue False Indigo *Baptisia australis*
Blue Mistflower *Conoclinium coelestinum*
Blue Violet *Viola sororia*
Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentali*
Crimson-eyed Rosemallow *Hibiscus moscheuto*
Common Rush *Juncus effusus*
Crinum Lilies *Crinum americanum*
Dwarf Palmetto *Sabal minor*
Dwarf Wax Myrtle *Morella cerifera*
Dwarf Yaupon *Ilex vomitoria*
Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*
Elliot's Lovegrass *Eragrostis elliotii*
False Indigo *Amorpha fruticosa*
Gaura *Oenothera lindleimeri*
Giant Ironweed *Vernonia gigantea*
Golden Tickseed *Coreopsis tinctorial*
Gulf Beardtongue *Penstemon tenuis*
Halberdleaf Hibiscus *Hibiscus laevis*
Indian Blanket *Gaillardia pulchella*
Lanceleaf tickseed *Coreopsis lanceolata*
Louisiana Iris *Iris species donated*
Lyreleaf Sage *Salvia lyrata*
Narrowleaf Mountainmint *Pycnanthemum tenuifolia*
Partridge Pea *Chamaecrista fasciculata*
Purple Echinacea *Echinacea purpurea*
Scarlet Star Hibiscus *Hibiscus coccineus*
Seaside Goldenrod *Sempervirens solidago*
Slender Rosinweed *Silphium gracile*
Southern Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina*
Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias perennis*
Switchgrass *Panicum virgatum*
Virginia Sweetspire *Itea virginica*
Weeping Yaupon *Ilex vomitoria*
White Penstemon *Penstemon digitalis*
White-top Sedge *Rynchospora colorata*
Winecup *Callirhoe involucrate*
Yellow Wild Indigo *Baptisia sphaerocarpa*



Photos by
Linda Barber Auld

***Thank you, Susan Norris-Davis,
for your dedication and excellent work!***

For more information regarding butterfly native plants check out my websites: www.nolabuglady.com also visit my Facebook page: Linda Barber Auld www.barberlaboratories.com

Linda Barber Auld, better known as NOLA BugLady, owns and operates Barber Laboratories, a three generation "You Buy it, You Apply it" pest control supply store located in Harahan. She has also raised butterflies for over 40 years and last year self-published her first book, "BugLady's Butterfly Summer" which is available at the store or on the website. You can also purchase native butterfly nectar and caterpillar host plants at her store. Website will post the available plant list each month. Linda's mission statement is "I sell death for pests and promote life for the rest!"

Who Speaks for the Birds?

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Avian Conservation Committee and How We Advocate for Bird Conservation

By **Charlie Pfeifer**

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF), a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), is a diverse group of conservationists, birders, hunters, fishermen, and wildlife watchers. This variety of affiliated organizations and individuals is united in a big way by one thing: a strong interest in preserving and advocating on behalf of our wildlife resources for the current and future enjoyment of all of the citizens of Louisiana.

As a member of the Orleans Audubon Society (OAS) board, it is my pleasure to represent OAS on the board of LWF. There are a variety of committees doing important work in the LWF such as the Habitat Committee. Until last year, there was no committee dedicated specifically to bird issues, a subject of great importance to most birders. Because of my strong interest in bird conservation, I immediately became interested in starting just such a committee. In addition to the Avian Conservation Committee, the LWF advocates strongly for general habitat conservation that benefits birds and all wildlife in general. The board often takes votes and approves positions on preserving the Maurepas Swamp, keeping MRGO closed and many more issues.

In August, 2019 the Avian Conservation Committee and OAS cosponsored a resolution in support of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act at the LWF convention in Monroe. This resolution, in strong support of this one hundred year old bedrock conservation law, was passed unanimously. Many Audubon members will be familiar with the recent finding by the federal government (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) that states that "Incidental Take" bird deaths will no longer be prosecuted under the MBTA. This means only birds intentionally killed will be prosecuted. I believe that the best way to view this is through the lens of how it lets industry off the hook for birds killed in often large numbers by, to name a few, toxic waste pits, communication towers and oils spills.... In this resolution we demonstrate that birds have enormous value: economic value through birding and well-regulated hunting, ecosystem services, the sheer pleasure of viewing birds and the profound moral and ethical responsibility that we have to protect them separate from any direct monetary value to humans. The MBTA Incidental Take Provision was one of the laws used to prosecute BP for the oil spill that killed considerable numbers of birds. The fines are used for habitat preservation and other conservation purposes. The resolution was sent to the Department of Interior, Senator Cassidy, Representative Graves and other appropriate recipients. This is the full resolution:

<https://lawildlifefed.org/resolution/support-for-maintaining-and-enforcement-of-incidental-take-provisions-in-the-migratory-bird-treaty-act-as-a-successful-tool-for-bird-conservation/>

Currently, the LWF is one of nine National Wildlife Federation state affiliates cosponsoring a draft resolution in support of House of Representatives bill HR 5552 that restores and strengthens the MBTA. It will be edited and voted on in the National Wildlife Federation convention. It will then become an official NWF position when it passes.



Photos by Joan Garvey

Black-throated
Blue Warbler



Blackburnian Warbler



Cape May Warbler

Also at the 2019 LWF convention, OAS sponsored a resolution in opposition to the “One Lake Project” on the Pearl River in Mississippi. This ill-conceived project is proposed under the false guise of flood control. The result will be extensive habitat damage from damming and dredging of ten miles of the Pearl River with a new 1900 lake and probable considerable downstream effects into Louisiana. Several species of conservation concern like Prothonotary Warblers and Swallow-tailed Kites would be affected. The resolution was passed unanimously and was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers and others: <https://lawildlifefed.org/resolution/opposition-to-the-one-lake-project/>

Another recent issue that LWF took a strong stand on was the tragic record of Whooping Crane shootings in Louisiana. At least twelve have been killed since 2011. An Avian Conservation Committee generated letter, with full support of OAS, was sent by LWF to the Baton Rouge Advocate and other newspapers in the general area of the whooping crane reintroduction. It costs nearly \$94,000 to raise and prepare one crane for the Louisiana Whooping Crane reintroduction project, not to mention the extreme dedication and hard work of the staff involved. These magnificent birds, the tallest in North America, should receive our careful stewardship. They may, sometime in the future, form the basis of a valuable ecotourism resource for Louisiana as they do in Texas. All the more outrageous and heart breaking to see the minor penalties handed down by the federal court in Lafayette for these crimes. The last conviction yielded only probation and community service with no jail time or fines. More deterrence with some real teeth is needed. A new case for a different shooting will be tried when the current pandemic situation allows and presents a new chance for the judicial system to do the right thing, should the alleged shooter be found guilty. The letter in the Baton Rouge Advocate: https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/letters/article_5608c534-6ecf-11ea-8a9f-5741fef33ac.html?fbclid=IwAR2XoI0R7iC_6puG7aaSgr_jXKamBes-0-GFlliOXv8OOffVS-chDu2_1WI

The current pandemic situation is presenting some challenges to bird conservation. Group meetings are on hold and fieldwork is curtailed. Much can be done on-line, but I look forward to some normalcy and coming back even stronger with our advocacy on behalf of the birds that have such great importance in our lives and that we value so much.



Photo by Joan Garvey Marbled Godwit

"Migrating Monarchs--it's that time" by Linda Barber Auld

In early March Monarchs began leaving their Mexican forest over-wintering grounds and headed north. Folks from all over Louisiana have been watching weathered migrant Monarchs visiting their flowers. In my gardens, male Monarchs are patrolling their "space" as they wait for females to stop by for a nectar snack and to lay eggs. The presence of stripped milkweed stalks and fat caterpillars make it pretty obvious that females have accepted my invitation to dine when I wasn't looking.

In 2013 Monarch Watch, the national organization that monitors the Monarch populations in their over-wintering grounds in Mexico, reported the lowest number in recorded history. Since then, scientists in all the major universities have been working on this issue to determine the cause. Through their scientific studies, several major breakthroughs have been discovered to help us understand how to proceed as folks who garden specifically for Monarchs. Knowing the facts, each of us will react to this issue on our own time and situation.

First, Monarch caterpillars that eat tropical milkweed will develop smaller wings. This means those butterflies, in the fall, will have less ability to fly to Mexico and so will likely join and become part of the resident population that overwinters in our area. The fact that the tropical milkweed plants grow vigorously and regenerate leaves very quickly helps the Monarch caterpillars eat from the same plants one life cycle to the next. The repeated use of these plants allows the protozoan spore parasite, "O.E." (*Ophryocystis elektroscirha*) to spiral out of control. South Louisiana has the greatest problem with this issue. The horrible effects of O.E. has been witnessed and reported throughout the metro New Orleans area; only spotty areas have been infected in Baton Rouge. Google "What is O.E.?" by Linda Barber Auld to read my explanatory article or visit my website: www.nolabuglady.com for more information. *Second, when the late spring temperature exceeds 80 degrees, it may be too hot for the Monarchs to sustain long-distance flying (migrate).* Therefore, they reproduce in place as non-migrators, using the same milkweed plants over and over, which brings us back to the same scenario I just described.

In this electronically connected age in which we live, I am amazed that many butterfly gardeners have still never heard of O.E. and its connection to tropical milkweed. Tropical milkweed plants originated in Mexico and since the 1950's have been sold at garden centers everywhere because it's an attractive plant, the caterpillars love it, it is very easy to grow, and it regenerates its leaves quickly. For years we caterpillar Mamas have depended on it to feed our babies. However, when hiking Louisiana woods, you will not see tropical milkweed growing because it is not native. Because it has been growing in our gardens *where we planted it* for so long, we think it has become naturalized. Not so. Native milkweeds are very slow growing and once they have been chewed down by caterpillars, the plants take a while to re-sprout.

There is, as far as I know, only one native milkweed in the historical record for our New Orleans area and that is Aquatic milkweed, *Asclepias perennis*. A Tulane University herbarium specimen documents it growing here since 1890. The Aquatic milkweed can be grown in the shade or sun, in a pot or the ground, even in standing water!

Non-Native versus Native Milkweed plants



"Silky Gold"
Asclepias currassavica
NOT NATIVE



"Scarlet"
Asclepias currassavica
NOT NATIVE



"Aquatic"
Asclepias perennis
NATIVE

Christen Steele, a Tulane University researcher who is currently working on her fourth year of studying this issue, has been monitoring tropical milkweed in over forty gardens in the Uptown/Carrollton area. Her work has uncovered some shocking statistics of the current high O.E. levels. If you have tropical milkweed in your gardens and want to be a part of her very important study program as a Citizen Scientist, you can contact Christen at csteele3@tulane.edu for more information.

Blackened failed chrysalises, failed hatching and deformed wings are signs of serious O.E. infection. For those gardeners who have seen these, it is recommended to cut down your tropical milkweed several times during the months of May through November to attempt slowing down the O.E. outbreak. Continue to offer hungry adult butterflies blooming nectar plants. Your milkweed plants that already have caterpillars on them can be netted using a tomato cage as a frame to allow the existing caterpillars to finish and pupate. The netting prevents other female Monarchs from "egg-bombing" another go-round of eggs and caterpillars on the same plant thus slowing the parasite. When the plant is free of caterpillar and chrysalis activity, it can be cut back.

Information you see through websites hosted by Monarch Watch, Monarch Health, and Journey North is accurate and correct. Always consider the source when reading articles about Monarchs and their many troubles. ***What can you do to help Monarchs?*** Replacement of the non-native with native is always a good thing. More and more garden centers are getting the message that there is a demand for change and they are stocking more native plants. Ask for them and they will supply. Add more blooming nectar plants for the adult butterflies. And remember there are many other beautiful butterflies and unique caterpillars to study that are equally as exciting and interesting...*just ask the BugLady!*



Our Wild Garden

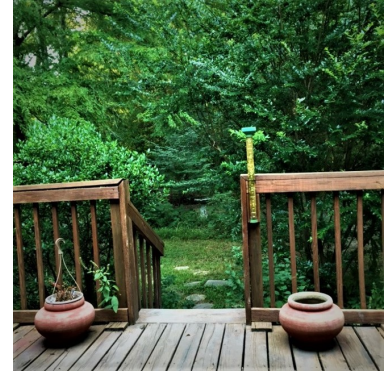
By Bill Fontenot

Life in this time of self-quarantine (April 2020) has been fruitful. At my age and physical situation it not only feels safer (= less stressful) to stay at home, but it has also enhanced our reception/perception of the blissful peace and God-vibrations constantly emanating from all this Nature that surrounds us. Fifty acres of restored bottomland hardwood forest – presently in year number thirty-eight since we moved out here – has transformed from what was then a briar-strewn pasture. We had no water, power, nor even a road to get here from the blacktop road that lies a half-mile to our west.

We started our Wild Garden in the spring of 1983 with the planting of a 5-pak of tree seedlings given out by the local Office of Forestry during its annual Arbor Day giveaway. They all made it fine, though hurricanes have since taken down three of them (a Chinese elm, a river birch, and I forget the third), the two bald cypresses are still here – one, a 100' tall beauty, is dead center of what turned out to be our backyard.

Since then, a few hundred plants have been added. Early on, our planting losses were substantial. We didn't understand the black swamp clay soil upon which we had located ourselves. It was raw circumneutral clay – not a grain of sand to be found in it – like cinderblock when dry, the consistency of modeling clay when wet. Over the years, this soil has taught us countless invaluable lessons in planting technique, plant selection, plant nutrition, sub-soil ecology, and perhaps most importantly, the value of using organic mulch in garden bed-building.

Looking back, neither of us would have seriously considered trucking in a more friable topsoil to plop over our swamp clay, and once we had built our cottage, that option was out of the question anyway. So we adapted. Over time, our planting failures diminished and successes multiplied. As the woods grew up all around us, we carved out a two-thirds-acre yard and garden complex. And by 1987 – our fifth year here – a half-acre native plant nursery was added. That's when planting projects increased exponentially, for we were intent on growing all of the plants we offered for sale so we'd know what we were talking about.



Meanwhile, I had begun working at the Lafayette Natural History Museum and managing its Acadiana Park Nature Station and Trail system. I was asked to write and lecture on the importance of using native plants in domestic garden settings. I took liberties in making ecology-based points and conclusions and predictions with no research to back them up. I drew upon my observations of what was going on at our place and at the nature trail system where I guided and taught visiting groups five days a week.

Even after retiring from the museum/nature center and closing the nursery in 2009 I was still being invited to write and speak – and still without any research to back up my assumptions. That would all change with the publication of Doug Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, which, unbeknownst to me, had been published in 2007. I first met him in New Orleans at an event where we both had been invited to speak sometime around 2010. Turns out it took an insect ecologist like him to produce the research that would actually prove what folks like Charlotte Seidenberg and myself – and the legendary Caroline Dormon before us – had been writing and speaking about for all those years. And of course it made perfect sense, as insects are indeed “the straw that stirs the drink” when it comes to making our world go ‘round properly.

Anyway, so after nearly two solid months of self-quarantined garden maintenance by both Lydia and me, our Wild Garden has never looked better! With somewhere around 160 Gulf Coast native plants (58 of which the site itself has generated on its own) plus about 90 exotic species/cultivars, we've got insect substrate comin' out the wah-zoo, Doug!

How about you? How's your quarantine going? I want to make a little toast: Here's to hope – hope for a bright future for the planet we all call home!



Pink form of *Hibiscus laevis*, a Louisiana native



This iris is called 'Camille' ... Jim Foret gave it to us in honor of our grand-daughter (Camille Robichaux).

Want to learn more about wildlife gardening? Download the OAS brochure about native fruiting plants to attract birds “**Avian Frugivory in Louisiana by Plant Species**” authored by Bill Fontenot and compiled by Ariel White here from the OAS website:

http://jjaudubon.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fruiting_Plants_for_Birds.pdf



Like what you're seeing? If so, please support OAS...

GiveNOLA returns on Tuesday, June 2, 2020!

Make a difference for local conservation by joining us for 24 hours of giving to benefit our regional non-profits, including **Orleans Audubon Society**. Now in its 7th year, GiveNOLA Day is a 24-hour event hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Together, let's inspire people to give generously so that we can make our region stronger and creating a thriving community for all.

Please visit Orleans Audubon Society's GiveNOLA profile on Tuesday, June 2nd to make a donation:
<https://www.givenola.org/orleansaudubon>

Profile of Lees Hopkins and Delta Flora Native Nursery

By Wendy Rihner

Let's hope it is not a fad. Let's hope it has more longevity than the career of the latest pop princess. The National Audubon Society hopes so, and so does Lees Hopkins, owner/purveyor/grower at Delta Flora Native Plant Nursery. Even before Covid-19 shut everything down, native plant gardening experienced a renaissance of sorts. National Audubon launched its major campaign "Plants for Birds" several years ago, and for Hopkins, it is both a livelihood and mission.

I met Hopkins just a few years ago at a farmer's market and ever since, my addiction has been fed! In 2019, Hopkins launched Delta Flora Nursery in a vacant lot at 2710 Touro Street in the 7th Ward, and with state licensing and with the help of friends, built a greenhouse and an airy enclosure that houses the plant stock.

Hopkins studied art in college, and with that specialization's emphasis on colors, shapes and patterns, horticulture isn't that much of a stretch. Why natives? Hopkins tells me, "I love the sense of connection I get from returning these plants back to the environment where they evolved. It just seems right."

I have made more than a few trips to Delta Flora, and I can vouch that customers will find healthy natives at reasonable prices. For instance, I recently purchased a Cardinal Flower (\$7.00) and a Great Blue Lobelia (\$8.00), both plants included on National Audubon's recommendations for our area. (Both plants appeal to hungry Ruby-throated Hummingbirds). With state nursery licensing, Delta Flora can also purchase natives from growers around Louisiana and resell to the public, broadening the variety of offerings.

Now is a good time to start thinking of fall bloomers, and Delta Flora offers a variety of Goldenrod and sunflowers for seed eaters like sparrows and finches. A Swamp Sunflower I purchased from Hopkins last summer has recently reemerged in lush, healthy hues.

What are the benefits of bringing native plants to your gardens? Native plants benefit both humans and wildlife. Hopkins relates, "Gardening with native plants brings the garden alive by inviting lepidoptera, bees, and other cool insects, and birds that feed on these insects and the plants themselves." Add to that, gardeners water and weed less, and natives do not require any pesticides. For me, it is the wonder of seeing a garden more in line with what Mother Nature may have designed. In this especially challenging time, how comforting it is to see the many species of bees alone I have in my backyard. Knowing that I help important pollinator species brings me great pride.

Delta Flora is open on Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m., Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and for the month of May, Saturday hours have been added, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Hopkins will eventually also sell at pop-ups and farmer's markets.

"Gardeners who cherish the planet want to re-create the beauty and functionality of local ecosystems. It's sort of reassuring to know that my passion for plants has a higher purpose," Hopkins tells me. Indeed, wildlife agrees.

<https://www.facebook.com/deltafloranativeplants/>

A Community Comes Together to Rescue a Metairie Eaglet

By Jennifer Coulson

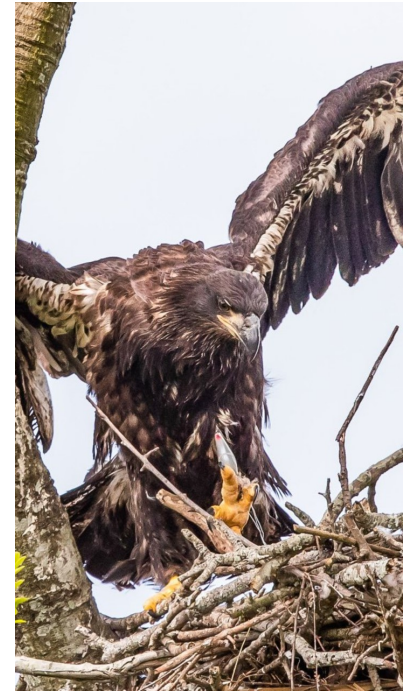
The Metairie Bald Eagle nest may be one of the most watched in the country. Beginning in the winter of 2017-2018, a pair of Bald Eagles has nested smack dab in the middle of suburbia, at the corner of Cleveland Place and Kawanee Avenue. The lofty nest sits in a large oak tree that shades the roof of the house. The eagles frequently drop parts of their prey, pieces of nutrias and ducks, onto the roof and in the backyard.

On April 4, environmental consultant and wildlife photographer P.J. Hahn was photographing the Metairie eagle nest just as he had done almost daily since the pair first nested there. He noticed that the younger eaglet's movements weren't normal. Every time it tried to stand up it fell over. So he took some close-ups of this nestling to determine what was wrong. His photos revealed a treble hook (attached to a fishing lure) embedded in the eaglet's musculature.

P.J. launched a rescue effort. Jefferson Parish Animal Control officers used a lift from a local tree service to try to net the younger eaglet. Unfortunately, both eaglets flew off as the lift with the officers approached the nest: the lift frightened the eaglets enough to make them fledge prematurely. Although the eaglets flew awkwardly, one still made it several blocks. Fortunately, both were found and captured safely.

This is where I really wish that Tom and I had been called in. We would have insisted on soaking down the older eaglet and returning it to the nest. Had it been returned to the nest soaking wet at that age it would have stayed put. Having one young in the nest would have guaranteed that the parents would stick around and tend to it. Instead, well-meaning folks transported both eaglets to the LSU Veterinary Hospital, where a veterinarian removed the treble hook from the younger eaglet. The LSU Veterinary Hospital then turned the eaglets over to Wings of Hope, a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center in Livingston, Louisiana, to allow the younger eaglet time to heal.

The clock was ticking though, with both eaglets gone. With each passing day the chances were increasing that the parents might abandon their nest and move on to greener pastures like the spillway. Leslie Lattimore, the Director of Wings of Hope, called me on April 12 to discuss the situation. We both knew the eaglets had to be reunited with their parents quickly, because the young eaglets needed their parents. Eaglets are slow to develop and need a support system to perfect their flying and hunting skills. They receive supplementary feeding from their parents while they are learning the lay of the land and how to feed themselves. To add to the urgency, both eaglets were already flying short distances in the flight chamber. Severe storms were forecast to come through that day, so we decided to let them pass and wait until the following morning to attempt a reunion. The only problem was, the neighborhood watch had not seen the parents in two solid days. Were we too late already?



P.J. Hahn's photo revealing the younger eaglet's problem: fishing hooks embedded in his breast and foot.



Male eaglet after his release.

On the following morning Tom and I met John Nelson and Leslie Lattimore at the home where the nest is. When we arrived the father was standing on the nest. This gave us hope that maybe we were not too late! Leslie let the eaglets out of the large kennel. Almost immediately the younger one began to feed on a chunk of nutria Tom had brought for them. The older female was feeling her oats though and flew to perch on a nearby fence. As soon as a gust came, she flew to a nearby power pole and perched on a transformer. It's a good thing OAS had urged Entergy to retrofit the power poles near the nest last year! Had they not done so, this female would have surely been electrocuted.

Soon the mother eagle showed up and perched in the nest tree. Seeing her fly overhead really excited the youngsters. Both started begging loudly and wagging their wings. This excited the parents, who answered back in their adult voices. The happy family reunion was truly uplifting!

We all departed to give the eagles some space and privacy so that the adults could feed the young. When we left the male eaglet was on the roof of the house, where he could easily fly to lower limbs of the nest tree. But the winds were strong that day and blowing in the wrong direction. He eventually flew from the roof and landed clumsily in the middle of the street. This had nothing to do with his previous injury and everything to do with being a fledgling and learning to fly. P.J. Hahn came to the rescue again, moving him out of harm's way. He then waited for John Nelson to return and put the male back on the roof. Since that day the parents have been attending to both eaglets. The rehabilitation and reunion were a huge success!

"How did it happen?" is the question I'm most often asked about the treble hook. One of the adults must have inadvertently carried the fishing tackle into the nest. It may have been attached to a limb the adult was using to refurbish the nest, or more likely, it was attached to a prey item. We could see fishing line tangled in the nest tree at the height of the nest. **This accident should serve as a reminder to fishermen to make every attempt to disentangle snagged lines whenever possible instead of leaving them to become a potential wildlife hazard.**

This is a stellar example of community conservation! OAS would like to commend the entire neighborhood for watching out for the Metairie eagles and keeping them out of harm's way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OAS volunteers who have been monitoring eagle nests throughout Louisiana and Mississippi, including: Debbie Visco Abibou, Byron Almquist, Debra Babin, James Bozeman, Matt Brady, Robert Briscoe, James Cronin, Sean Carroll, Tom Coulson, Chris Fisher, Dan and Daphne Foote, Eugene Foret, Joan Garvey, Roseanne Guerra, Doug Guth, P.J. Hahn, Donata Henry, Chieko Hunter, Todd Hymel, Elaine Jacobsen, Andy and Jeanne Licausi, Becky Lloyd, Kristen Melton, Susan Miron, Krista Morgan, Matthew Mullenix, David Muth, John Nelson, Ben Normark, Glenn Ousset, Dan Purrington, Christie Riehl, Patricia Rodrigues, Barbara Roos, David Ruth, Cameron Rutt, Terri and Dan Skelton, John Snell, Ray Solis, Wesley Smith, Carolyn Swartz, Timone Webre, Matthew Williams, Andrew Wilson, Peter Yaukey, and others.

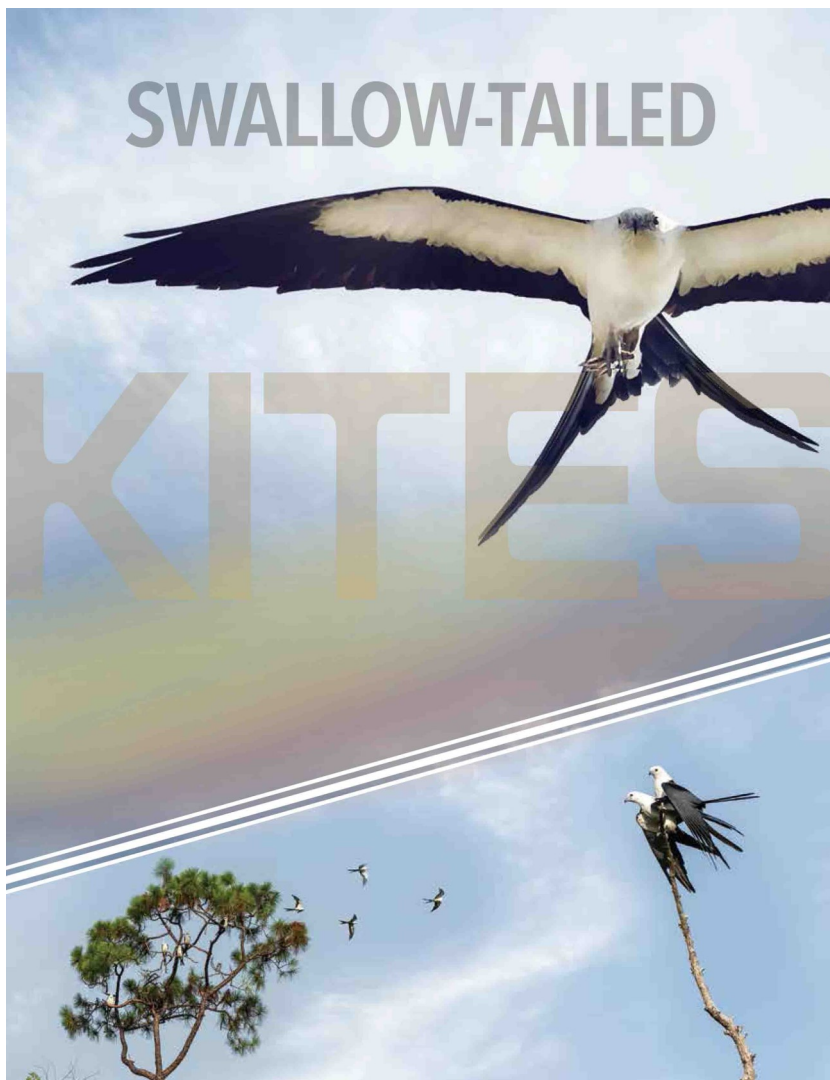
And OAS especially thanks Leslie Lattimore of Wings of Hope for her dedication and work in rehabilitating the younger eagle and in rescuing an incredible number and diversity of Louisiana's wildlife in need. Wings of Hope relies entirely on donations from the public for funding. **Please consider making a donation to Wings of Hope** through the website:

<https://www.wingsofhoperehab.org/donate.html>

or Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Wings-of-Hope-Wildlife-Sanctuary-425244020892072/>

Or mail a check payable to Wings of Hope to: Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary
20591 Abe Hoover Rd., Livingston, LA 70754



NEW! Swallow-tailed Kite Information and Conservation Brochure:

Learn how you can help kites by downloading OAS's new kite conservation brochure. It contains natural history and citizen science information on Swallow-tailed Kites as well as conservation and management recommendations for landowners, land managers and private citizens. It is also illustrated with beautiful, full color photos!

Download the brochure from the OAS website here:

<http://jjaudubon.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Swallow-tailed-Kite-CONSERVATION-2020-WEB.pdf>

Keep up with what's happening!

Sign up for OAS email announcements at the OAS MailChimp landing page:

<https://mailchi.mp/faf69a03b4e9/orleansaudubon>

OAS's MailChimp account offers a secure platform where you can subscribe or change your mail subscription preferences at any time.

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