



## BEGINNING BIRD WATCHING COURSE – MARCH 2021

### INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY

#### BIRDING CLUBS

**Orleans Audubon Society** <http://www.jjaudubon.net/>  
**Course Handouts:** <http://jjaudubon.net/birding-workshops-and-courses/>

Under “**Birding**” click on “**Southeast Louisiana Bird Finding Guide**”  
Sign up for email announcements at OAS’s MailChimp landing page:

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrleansAudubon>

Twitter: @AudubonOrleans

YouTube channel: **Orleans Audubon Society** – has recorded bird identification programs:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKG2zcfKetX7MV19hSpDaA>

Email: [OrleansAudubon@aol.com](mailto:OrleansAudubon@aol.com)

OAS Membership Chair, Joan Garvey, [joanmgarvey1@gmail.com](mailto:joanmgarvey1@gmail.com)

**Baton Rouge Audubon Society**

<http://www.braudubon.org/>

**Louisiana Ornithological Society** <http://losbird.org/>

*LOS News, Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*

#### BIRD STATUS IN LOUISIANA

**Official checklist for Louisiana:** <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/checklist.pdf>

**Louisiana Rare Bird Records Committee:** <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/lbrc.htm>

**Louisiana’s State review list:** <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/ReviewList.pdf>

**Dr. George Lowery’s 1974 bird occurrence by season bar graphs:**

The seasonal bar graphs in *Louisiana Birds* (Lowery 1974), give a reasonably accurate representation of the status of most species.

[http://losbird.org/documents/laBirding/lowery\\_seasonal\\_occurrences.pdf](http://losbird.org/documents/laBirding/lowery_seasonal_occurrences.pdf)

**On-line reporting of rare birds found in Louisiana:**

<http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/submitreport.html>

[http://losbird.org/lbrc/instruct\\_lbrc.html](http://losbird.org/lbrc/instruct_lbrc.html) - Provides general instructions.

## BIRD CLASSIFICATION

### **American Ornithological Society:**

*Checklist of North and Middle American Birds*

<http://checklist.americanornithology.org/>

Online, searchable checklist with the most current taxonomic updates.

### **A Classification of the Bird Species of South America** by Dr. J. V. Remsen:

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.htm>

### **The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World** (last updated August 2019)

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/>

curated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

## RESOURCES

Ornithology at **LSU Museum of Natural Science** – LSU’s bird collection houses more than 190,000 specimens is the third-largest university-based collection in the world. The museum’s holdings of birds from Peru, Bolivia, the West Indies, and the Southeastern US are the largest in the world. <https://www.lsu.edu/mns/collections/ornithology.php>

### Cornell’s **All About Birds**

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

Provides introductory species accounts for North American birds, with sound recordings, free. **Merlin** bird identification app.

### Cornell’s **Birds of the World** <https://birdsoftheworld.org>

By subscription through Cornell University. Detailed, scientific, peer-reviewed species accounts for all species found in North America and for many species worldwide, also available through some libraries.

### **eBird** <https://ebird.org>

An electronic on-line data entry to keep track of your birding trips, including photos, and share them with others. Create a free account and start entering your birding data. eBird is available as an app for your phone and/or for your computer.

Free, on-line short course about using eBird:

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>

### **North American Bird Banding Program:**

Report a banded or marked bird: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/>

### **Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators in Louisiana**

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/PAGE/PERMITTED-WILDLIFE-REHABILITATORS>

**Bird Louisiana**

<http://www.birdlouisiana.org/>

**American Bird Conservancy** – a leader in bird conservation

<https://abcbirds.org/>

**Bird Watching** – monthly, Sibley has a bird identification column

<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/>

**American Birding Association** – Subscribe to *Birding Magazine*

<https://www.aba.org/birding/>

**Local Bird Finding Guide:**

Yaukey, Peter. 2013. *Birding Made Easy*. Gulf South Environmental, New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Peter Yaukey's accompanying blog "Birding Made Easy New Orleans"

<http://birdingneworleans.blogspot.com/> or email him: [pyaukey@uno.edu](mailto:pyaukey@uno.edu)

**A Beginner's Zine to Birding the Parks, Backyards, and Street Corners of New Orleans**

By Mike Mahoney

Available from OAS by donation: <http://jjaudubon.net/beginners-birding-zine/>

**A Birder's Guide to Louisiana** by Richard Gibbons, Roger Breedlove and Charlie Lyon

Order a copy or download a free pdf: <http://www.atchafalaya.org/birding>

**Adventures of a Louisiana Birder** by Marybeth Lima

**COMMUNITY SCIENCE**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**, February, <https://www.birdcount.org/>

**New Orleans Christmas Bird Count**—December. Compiler: Glenn Ousset,  
[gousset@bellsouth.net](mailto:gousset@bellsouth.net)

**Northshore-Slidell CBC**: December. Contact: Wendy Rihner, [wrihner@gmail.com](mailto:wrihner@gmail.com)

**St. Tammany CBC**: December, Contact: Chris Brantley, [chrisbrantley@charter.net](mailto:chrisbrantley@charter.net)

**Volunteer for OAS Avian Monitoring Projects:**

Swallow-tailed Kite nest monitoring (March — August)

Download the *Swallow-tailed Kite Conservation Brochure* here:

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

American Kestrel nest monitoring (March — August)

Bald Eagle nest monitoring (November — March)

South Point Migration Surveys (year-round)

Contact: Jennifer Coulson, [jacoulson@aol.com](mailto:jacoulson@aol.com)

## BIRDING E-MAIL LISTS

**LABIRD** - birds and birding in Louisiana

To subscribe, use the "Subscribe" address: <https://groups.io/g/labird>

**HUMNET** - hummingbirds and gardening in the southeastern US

To subscribe, send a message to [LISTSERV@listserv.lsu.edu](mailto:LISTSERV@listserv.lsu.edu) with the following text:

SUBSCRIBE HUMNET-L YOUR NAME

<https://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/HUMNETintro.html>

## ORNITHOLOGY TEXTBOOKS & COURSES

*Ornithology*, Fourth Edition, 2019, Frank B. Gill and Richard O. Prum, with Scott K. Robinson, Contributor, New York: W.H. Freeman, Macmillan Learning.

*Louisiana Birds*, 1974, George H. Lowery, Jr., Baton Rouge: LSU Press. [out of print]

*Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part I*, 1997, Peter Pyle. Bolinas, California: Slate Creek Press. [detailed bird bander's reference guide]

*Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II*, 2008. Peter Pyle. Bolinas, California: Slate Creek Press.

### Cornell "Bird Academy" On-line Courses:

*Ornithology – Comprehensive Bird Biology*

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ornithology-comprehensive-bird-biology/> [\$240]

*Be a Better Birder: How to Identify Bird Songs* [\$59.99]

## AUDIO AND APPS

**Audubon Bird Guide App** – free, easy access to photographs and vocalizations of native birds.

<https://www.audubon.org/apps>

**Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Macaulay Library** – Recordings of bird vocalizations and songs. <https://www.macaulaylibrary.org/>

**Merlin Bird ID** – free app from Cornell, guiding beginners <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

**iBird Pro** – app provides vocalizations

**The Warbler Guide** – app provides vocalizations

**Xeno-Canto** – Bird sound recordings from around the world.

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/>

## E-birding: Birding Apps and Ebird

By R. Dan Purrington

It used to be that all you needed was a pair of binoculars and off you went birding. Of course that can still be the case, but there's a lot of help out there. No more do you need to try to fit a field guide into your back pocket or carry a bulky tape recorder to try to entice a seaside sparrow out of the salt marsh. It's all in your I-Phone (or Android, etc.).

There are at least four good "apps" that serve as digital field guides, with good range maps, and which also allow you to play typical songs and calls of almost all North American birds. For most of us, being able to bird by ear is essential, and these apps help in two ways. If you hear a bird, you can listen to songs or calls of the bird you think it may be to clinch the identification. Second, if you are so inclined, and with luck, you can lure a secretive bird from the brush by playing its song (during the breeding season) or call (anytime, especially winter).

The Apps I recommend are: *Sibley, I-Bird Pro*, *Peterson's Birds*, and the *National Geographic Guide*. They vary in price, although most have a stripped-down version. Each has its advantages, but all are of high quality and reliable. The *National Audubon App* is also powerful and multi-featured, but is aimed at more casual birders than, say, the Sibley guide. Sibley shows much more plumage detail in difficult species, such as gulls at different ages. The *Bird Tunes App* is good on bird vocalizations but doesn't have other identification information. *Merlin*, from Cornell, is an identification-help App that guides you through a decision tree, and with luck, to an identification. Perhaps more for novices than advanced birders. *The Warbler Guide app* allows sorting by location and season to generate images of expected species.

It also never hurts to have LABIRD at your fingertips, either in your email or as a link on your home screen, in case you see need to alert others of a good bird you have seen, or just check to see what others have found.

Finally, every time we go birding, we generate data, and those data are easily stored by using the *EBIRD App*, from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It is free and easy to use, and all of those data go into your own ebird account, so that you have a permanent record of every bird you have seen. But the data also go into a huge database that adds to our knowledge of North American birds. And, of course, you can use it wherever you are: Europe, the tropics, etc. As a user, a huge amount of information is at your fingertips.

If birding is one of your ways to escape technology, so be it, but if you want to take advantage of what is available, consider these resources and others which are no doubt on the way.

