



INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY BIRD WATCHING COURSE – FALL 2021

LOCAL BIRDING DESTINATIONS

By Jennifer Coulson

New Orleans City Park

Two birding hotspots, Couturie Forest and the Wisner Tract, are accessible from Harrison Avenue between Marconi Drive and Wisner Avenue, in City Park. The closest public restrooms in the Park are near Morning Call. Beware of dogs off leash and people on speeding bicycles. It is advisable not to bird these locations alone.

Couturie Forest

Couturie is a favorite, world class birding spot, primarily because of its accessibility and location within New Orleans. This 60-acre natural area is a great place to see migrant passerines. The generally well-maintained trails can occasionally be a little muddy in spots.

Directions: Located on the north side of Harrison Avenue, between the traffic circle and Marconi Drive. 1009 Harrison Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124. From the main parking lot, walk across a foot bridge to access the trails.

Parking: There are two parking areas along Harrison Avenue. The main lot is at 1009 Harrison Avenue. The smaller lot is accessible from the northwest side of the traffic circle.

Southeast Louisiana Bird-Finding Guide

<http://jjaudubon.net/new-orleans-city-park-and-lake-vista/>

eBird Hotspot: City Park--Couturie Forest, Orleans, US-LA

Trail map for Couturie Forest:

http://neworleanscitypark.com/files/in-the-park/couturie_forest_map.pdf

Wisner Tract

This trail winds its way through an overgrown golf course. The trail is sometimes overgrown and muddy, and it is not marked. Beware of dogs off leash.

Directions: Walk south along the lagoon, and after you cross the second bridge, continue along the lagoon to the clearing within the grove of trees and beyond (see maps below).

Parking: Small parking lot on south side of Harrison Avenue between traffic circle and Wisner Boulevard.

<http://jjaudubon.net/new-orleans-city-park-and-lake-vista/>

http://neworleanscitypark.com/files/in-the-park/Whole_Park_Map_Jan_2020.pdf

eBird Hotspot: City Park--Wisner Tract (Old East Golf Course), Orleans, US-LA

Audubon Park

Audubon Park offers local birding opportunities in relative safety, especially during hours when a lot of people are out and about. The park's majestic live oaks are frequented by migrating warblers. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and Wood Ducks can sometimes be seen at close range in the lagoons.

Audubon Park Jogging Path/Trail, Bird Island

The 1.8 mile paved jogging path and associated trails around the lagoons offer decent birding.
6500 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118

Bird Island is located in the center of Audubon Park Lagoon.

<https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/audubon-park-map>

<https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/bird-island>

eBird Hotspot: Audubon Park, Orleans, US-LA

eBird Hotspot: Bird Island, Orleans, US-LA

Butterfly Riverview Park (a.k.a. "The Fly")

6500 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

<https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/riverview-park>

<https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/explore-audubon-park/riverview>

eBird checklist: Audubon Park--The Fly, Orleans, US-LA

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge

There are many places to observe birds on the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in eastern New Orleans. Here a few birding hotspots that are easily accessible from Chef Menteur Highway (Hwy 90). It is advisable to not bird these locations alone.

Southeast Louisiana Bird-Finding Guide

<http://jjaudubon.net/eastern-new-orleans-bayou-sauvage-nwr/>

General map of refuge:

https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/BayouSauvage_Map.pdf#a

Ridge Trail

Amenities: Restrooms, parking lot, picnic area, elevated boardwalk and observation deck. The entire loop trail, including walking to marsh overlook, is 0.75 mile.

eBird Hotspot: Bayou Sauvage NWR--Ridge Trail, Orleans, US-LA

Madere Marsh Overlook

Amenities: Parking lot, picnic area, elevated boardwalk and observation deck. A roundtrip walk to observation deck and back is 0.15 mile.

eBird Hotspot: Bayou Sauvage NWR--Joe Madere Marsh Overlook, Orleans, US-LA

Recovery One Road and Landfill

Recovery One Road is paved. A round-trip hike from the yellow gate to the northwest corner of the landfill is 0.95 mile.

Directions: If approaching from the east, from US 11 turn west (right) on US 90 and drive for approximately 1.9 miles. If approaching from the west, at the junction of Chef Menteur Hwy/US 90 and I-510, continue east on Chef Menteur Hwy./US 90 for 4.0 miles. The paved Recovery One Road is on the south side of the highway, immediately after you cross the Maxent Canal. Recovery One Road is also across the street from the Ridge Trail entrance to the Bayou Sauvage NWR. Park at the start of Recovery One Road, outside of the yellow gate. Walk south here, paralleling the Maxent Canal, toward the railroad tracks (a half-mile walk).

eBird Hotspot: Bayou Sauvage NWR--Recovery One Rd., Orleans, US-LA



Barred Owl