REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing-tags (with black lettering) were put on adult terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing-tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, ATTAWA, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.
LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Second Annual Report

This report contains the decisions of the L. O. S. Bird Records Committee since the last annual report (L.O.S. News No. 98, October 1982). During the last year species have been added to the Louisiana list by the Records Committee. Several dozen records are currently under review by the Committee.

In other actions, the Committee has added the "Great White Heron", Ardea herodias occidentalis, to the Review List. This is the only subspecies now on the Review List.

The Committee currently consists of Horace H. Jeter (Chairman), Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Robert D. Purrington, Dr. J. V. Remsen, Jr., Buford M. Myers III, David P. Muth, and Thomas S. Schulenberg (Secretary).

In the report that follows, the Records Committee file number on each record is placed in parentheses after the name of the species. The initials of those persons who observed records accepted by the Committee are given in the following report; underlined initials signal those observers who provided the Committee with documentation of a record. All records are on file with the Secretary and are available for examination by interested persons.

I. SPECIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM LOUISIANA

A. Species accepted to the Louisiana state list.


2. Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus). (82-1). One adult was seen by many observers (SC, MM, DM, NN, DP, MR) between 14-28 February 1982 at the New Orleans City Dump, New Orleans and the Paris Road Dump, Chalmette. Photographed on 14 February 1982 by MM.

3. Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri). (82-2). A first-year bird studied at the New Orleans City Dump, New Orleans on 14 February 1982 (MM, DM, NN); photographed by MM.


B. Unaccepted, identification uncertain.

1. Lazuli Bunting (Passerina amoena). (81-41). Sight record at the University of New Orleans, East Campus, New Orleans on 8 October 1981.
II. REVIEW LIST SPECIES (birds previously recorded in Louisiana, but which are of rare occurrence or whose identification is difficult).

A. Accepted records.


5. Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). (82-13). An immature collected along the beach ca 5 miles east of Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Parish by JM on 23 April 1982; specimen deposited at the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ 104825).

6. Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). (82-12). An immature seen by MM, JR, DM on 15 May 1982 along the beach 0.5 miles west of Holly Beach, Cameron Parish.

7. Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). (82-14). An immature seen by VR, MR, and SL two miles west of Holly Beach on 2 June 1982. This was a very unusual summer record; possibly the same individual seen in the same area in May (82-12).


9. Long-eared Owl (Asio otus). (82-8). Two individuals seen by DM and JR in woods along the Calcasieu Ship Channel at East Hackberry, Cameron Parish on 19-20 December 1981; thereafter seen by a number of other observers.


13. Smith's Longspur (Calcarius pictus). (82-4). Two (one adult male, one adult female or immature) seen by DM, MB, DP, and JR at La Place, St. John the Baptist Parish on 17 January 1982.


B. Unaccepted records, identification uncertain.


Observers: Steve Cardiff, Bruce Crider, Tristan Davis, Jon Dunn, Sue Flewelling, Linda Hale, Joe Kennedy, Howard Kisner, Scott Lanyon, John Morony, David Muth, Mac Myers, Norton Nelkin, Nancy Newfield, Skip Newfield, Larry O'Meallie, Dan Furrington, Jack Reinoehl, Mark Robbins, Jim Stewart, Tom Vallega, Jim Whelan.

Corrigenda: In the First Annual Report (L.O.S. News No. 98, October 1982), several errors were made in reporting records of Ruff. The Ruff was admitted to the Louisiana list on the basis of Record 80-2, a bird on the campus of the University of New Orleans, New Orleans on 12 August 1980 (Norton Nelkin, Mac Myers, David Muth, et al.). An additional record reviewed by the Committee is 81-23, a bird seen and photographed at the same location 12-13 August 1978 (Jack Reinoehl, Mac Myers, Fred Barry, et al.).

BACHMAN'S SPARRROWS IN EVANGELINE PARISH

by

Harland D. Guillory

In recent years Bachman's Sparrows (Aimophila aestivalis) have caused considerable concern because of population declines in many parts of their range. This concern was great enough to warrant inclusion of the species on the Blue List (Tate and Tate, American Birds 36: 126-135, 1982). In Louisiana, Lowery (Louisiana Birds, LSU Press, 1974) considered the sparrow to be an uncommon breeder.

There is little general information available on abundance and distribution of this species in Louisiana. Such information could be of importance to future workers, particularly should these population declines continue.

Data were acquired in the spring and summer of 1979-81 and the summer of 1983. Research assistance was provided in 1981 by the Office of Academic Affairs and Services of Louisiana State University at Eunice.

The distribution of Bachman's Sparrows in Evangeline Parish is extremely local because of their specific habitat requirements. They prefer opened mature pineland containing occasional oaks, shrubs, saplings, forbs, and thick growths of grasses
(Oberholser, The Bird Life of Texas, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1974). Such areas are presently created or maintained by fire-management and selective cutting. If unmanaged, pines, oaks, saplings, and shrubs will grow so densely that they will shade-out the grasses and forbs where Bachman's forage.

There are a few small areas in the northeastern corner of the parish where they are known or suspected to breed.

About five pairs breed in an area containing about 50 acres of ideal habitat and another 50 acres of marginal habitat approximately one mile north of Lake Cove. This general area is occasionally visited by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and supports breeding Prairie Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Brown-headed Nuthatches.

Usually one or two pairs maintain territories in a few acres of acceptable habitat about two miles south of the Crooked Creek Recreational Area. This area was severely logged about 15-20 years ago and is naturally re converting to dense pine-oak woodland.

One or two pairs can also be found in Vancouver Plywood Company property and general vicinity southwest of Beaver along Louisiana Highway 10. This place contains fairly opened, fire-managed pineland as well as some pine-oak areas, but overall the trees are too densely spaced and not mature enough to be attractive to Bachman's Sparrows. In future years this area could become prime habitat as the pines mature and if the are thinned-out.

The continued existence of this sparrow in Evangeline Parish is heavily dependent upon the continued maintenance of opened fire-managed mature pineland.

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West Virginia, a uniquely beautiful state, has never received much ornithological attention; but George Hall has changed that. In this slim volume, Hall details every aspect of the bird life of the most mountainous of our eastern states. Starting with a history of ornithology in West Virginia, this book covers every factor affecting the birds and their distribution. Each distinct habitat is identified with notes on the effect that man has on it.

Species accounts summarize the current status of each species that has been reported to have occurred. The geographical distribution of every nesting species is discussed with notes on its preferred habitat. Warblers are probably West Virginia's most characteristic birds and they are well covered in this book.

Illustrations are comprised of 21 black and white photographs showing nesting birds and/or important environments. There are numerous pen and ink sketches by the late George M. Sutton, who also provided a beautiful watercolor of the unique Sutton's Warbler as a fronticepiece.
This excellent book is an important addition to the library of anyone interested in eastern birds and their distribution. For the traveling birder, it will greatly enhance your appreciation of this beautiful state and its birds.

Reviewed by: Nancy L. Newfield

Dr. Tom Kee, Editor
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LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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