



Louisiana Wildlife Insider

Photo by Perry Russell



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Photo by Amy Gilliss, Arundel Tree Service (forestryimages.org)



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Photo by Leslie Lattimore,
Wings of Hope Wildlife
Sanctuary



LDWF Wildlife Rehabilitation Program *Rules and Application Procedures*

BY MELISSA COLLINS, Wildlife Biologist, Permits Coordinator

As I sit here and review the informational, insightful and sometimes humorous articles written by my exceptional coworkers here at LDWF from the comforts of my office, I think of my fellow citizens who are not so lucky. With the recent flooding across south Louisiana, tens of thousands of our friends, family, neighbors and coworkers are having to deal with the aftermath of record breaking rainfall that resulted in this epic flooding event. Their lives have been turned upside down, with many of them (including some of you) forced to tear out and discard not just the walls and contents of their homes, but the very fabric of their personal lives. I can only imagine the emotional burdens placed on families seeing the heart of their homes piled on the side of their street awaiting “trash” pick up day, all the while wondering, “how am I going to afford this?” Maybe heart isn’t the right word to use here, because the heart of a home is not in the walls that hold it up, or the stuff it contains, but the people that live in it. The families and love that reside inside a house are what makes it a home. That is something, no matter how damaged a dwelling is, that will still be there once a house is rebuilt.

As sad as seeing the aftermath of these floods has made me, witnessing the coming together of not just flood impacted communities, but the personal efforts of people from around our state to lend a helping hand to flood victims lets me know that the “heart” of our state is still strong. Louisianans coming together to donate their time, resources and money to help our neighbors in need does not surprise me. Growing up in Louisiana, I know the spirit of our people. Impacted families and communities will rebuild their homes and restore their lives through the strength of their will, faith in their creator, and the continued willingness of all of us to help them.

Sincerely,

Eric B. Shanks
Associate Editor

Jeffrey P. Duguay, Ph.D., *Editor*
Kenny Ribbeck, *Chief of Wildlife*

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Rehabilitation Program was created to regulate the rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife. LDWF receives innumerable calls every year relative to orphaned and injured wildlife and highly values the services licensed rehabilitators provide.

The goal of the program is to place injured or orphaned wildlife in temporary care until they can be successfully returned to the wild.

Wildlife rehabilitation requires training and considerable commitment. Applicants must consider the amount of time, effort and costs associated with properly and temporarily caring for wildlife species. Wildlife rehabilitation requires knowledge of wildlife behavior, habitat, diet and other species-specific needs as well. Therefore, an individual must possess and demonstrate the skills necessary to properly rehabilitate and release native species in Louisiana.

LDWF holds an annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Skills Class during the fall for individuals interested in wildlife rehabilitation. Course topics include the prevention of zoonotic diseases, wildlife capture, caging/enclosure standards, establishing a professional relationship with your veterinarian, wildlife nutrition, Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules and regulations ethics and habitat release requirements.

Individuals who are unable to attend the fall Basic Skills Class may fulfill the required certification coursework by completing an online course through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC). The LDWF Basic Skills Course and the IWRC courses are the only Wildlife Rehabilitation courses recognized by the department.



Individuals interested in applying for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Program permit must:

- Complete an application and release statement.
- Complete the LDWF or IWRC certification course and provide proof of completion.
- Pass the LDWF Wildlife Rehabilitator's exam with an 80% or greater score, following the course completion.
- Provide a statement of veterinary support from a licensed veterinarian.
- Provide a letter of recommendation from a permitted wildlife rehabilitator.
- Pass a facilities inspection; enclosures must meet or exceed the NWRA/IWRC minimum standards: http://nwrwildlife.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/Min_Standards/MinimumStandards3rdEdition.pdf
- Possess a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Rehabilitation permit if one wishes to rehabilitate any avian species listed on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act List: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php>
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Convicted felons or individuals with Class 2 or greater wildlife violations are ineligible.
- Wildlife shall not be possessed/imported/exported as pets, and no permit will be issued for such activity.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is illegal to rehabilitate deer, black bears, alligators and wild turkeys



Photo by Tom Stehn, USFWS

FAWN FACTS

- Do not touch or interact with fawns.
- They are virtually scentless and use camouflage (coats dappled with white spots) to avoid predation.
- Does often leave fawns alone for hours to forage and to reduce attracting predators to the fawn.
- You are most likely to see fawns in Louisiana from March-September.
- If you locate an injured adult deer or fawn, contact your local LDWF Field Office.



Photo courtesy of WERLA/Dr. Gia Morgan

Injured juvenile great-horned owl being fed.



Photo courtesy of WERLA/Dr. Gia Morgan

Orphaned juvenile flying squirrel being fed.

More information relative to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program can be found on the Wildlife Rehabilitation webpage: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife-rehabilitation-program> or by contacting Melissa Collins at (225) 763-8584

To report injured bald or golden eagles, contact your local LDWF Field Office or call 1-800-442-2511

To locate a permitted wildlife rehabilitator in your area, please visit our website: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife-rehabilitation-program.

Hemorrhagic Disease In White-tailed Deer

BY A. NIKKI ANDERSON, Wildlife Disease Biologist

Hemorrhagic disease (HD), more commonly referred to as “blue tongue,” is one of the most important diseases of white-tailed deer in North America. The disease infects both domestic and wild ruminants. It has been reported in white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, elk, and pronghorn. HD was first identified in North America over 60 years ago and has been enzootic in Louisiana for decades. The disease is caused by two serogroups of a virus in the genus *Orbivirus*: 1) epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) and 2) bluetongue virus (BTV). The viruses are clinically indistinguishable, therefore the general term hemorrhagic disease is used.

This annual viral blood-borne disease occurs seasonally through the late summer into the fall (late July through November) in the southeast. The disease is an arthropod-transmitted virus, spread through the bite of a fly, or midge, in the genus *Culicoides*. High precipitation in the early spring and summer followed by extreme high temperatures and drought increase outbreaks. Cold temperatures in the late fall affect fly populations and typically cause an end to the HD season.

Animals infected with the disease can display a highly variable range of external and internal signs, from showing no clinical symptoms to death. HD occurs in three forms: 1) peracute; 2) acute; and 3) chronic. The peracute form can manifest a wide range of symptoms including but not limited to: edema (excess fluid) of the head, neck, eyelids and tongue; depression; fever; difficulty breathing; reduced appetite and activity; and blue coloration of the tongue. Infected individuals may show one or a combination of symptoms. The peracute form of the disease is rapid, and individuals generally die within one to three days. Animal mortality with few or no clinical signs can occur. The acute form is characterized by the same edema as the peracute form, in addition to: ulcerations or erosions of the tongue, palate, dental pad, rumen, omasum, and abomasum; hemorrhaging in heart, intestine or skin; and excessive sali-

vation. Animals infected with the chronic form of HD may exhibit lameness, emaciation due to scarring and papillae loss in the rumen, oral ulcerations, and interruptions of hoof growth characterized by sloughing of the hoof walls and interrupted hoof growth rings. Symptoms and disease form vary by individual. An individual animal may not present all clinical symptoms, and asymptomatic animals are possible. Animals with HD infections may be discovered near water, as animals with high fever seek water in an attempt to cool down. Ruminants which survive the infection develop an immunity. Passive immunity is transferred through colostrum (in the doe's milk) from surviving does to fawns within the first day after fawning.

Annual onset of disease outbreak is highly variable and dependent on many environmental and population factors. HD severity and distribution in relation to herd density is not well understood. Presently, there is no way to predict the duration, severity or distribution of HD within a deer herd. There is also no way to prevent the

disease. Typically, mortality from HD outbreaks is less than 25 percent of a herd.

Hemorrhagic disease is diagnosed through viral isolation from blood or tissues. In order to monitor the rate of HD in white-tailed deer in Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries performs serological surveys annually. Blood samples are collected, mostly from hunter-harvested deer at check stations during managed hunts on wildlife management areas. The serum is then tested for antibodies to estimate EHDV and BTV rates in the herd. The disease surveillance monitoring program for white-tailed deer has been in place for over a decade and provides valuable insight on the health of this important resource.

The HD viruses cannot survive outside of the animal or the biting midge host. The disease does not infect humans, and meat from harvested HD-exposed deer is edible. If you observe a white-tailed deer with any of the above symptoms, injured, ill or dead please report it to your local LDWF Field Office or the LDWF Headquarter Office in Baton Rouge.



Buck exhibiting black spongy antlers as a result of infection with hemorrhagic disease while in velvet.

LITERATURE REFERENCED

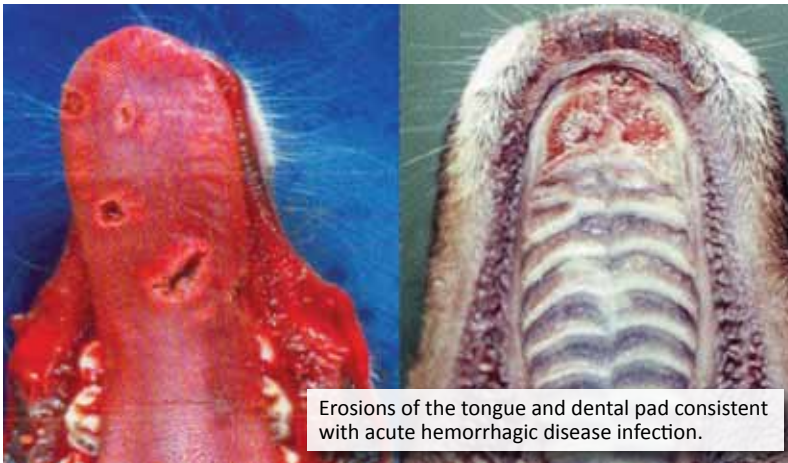
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Horizontal rings and sloughing of hooves consistent with chronic hemorrhagic disease infection.



Erosions of the tongue and dental pad consistent with acute hemorrhagic disease infection.

Photo courtesy of Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study



An emaciated doe exhibiting signs of chronic hemorrhagic disease.



An emaciated deer exhibiting symptoms of chronic wasting disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease which affects members of the cervid family: white-tailed deer, mule deer, sika deer, black-tailed deer, red deer, reindeer, moose, and elk. The disease, a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), is caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. The prion attacks the nervous system accumulating in the brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, spleen and eyes of an infected animal. Infectious prions can be found throughout the body. CWD is spread through saliva, blood, feces or urine of live animals and carcasses. In addition to live animal-to-animal transmission, infected carcass parts decompose in the environment infecting soil. Infectious material in the soil is picked up by live animals and increases the spread of disease. Once in the soil, prions persist for years and continue to infect additional animals.

Infected animals begin to show symptoms 16 months after infection, making immediate detection of the disease very difficult. Clinical presentation of the disease includes excessive salivation, urination and thirst, incoordination, difficulty swallowing, splay leg stance, lowered head and ears, and emaciation. Symptoms alone cannot be used for diagnosis, as clinical signs are similar to other diseases such as hemorrhagic disease. Laboratory testing of the brain and lymph nodes is required for a definitive diagnosis of CWD.

CWD occurs in two Canadian Provinces and 24 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The only CWD prevention is to prevent introduction. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries tests for CWD throughout the year. To date, CWD has not been detected in Louisiana. If you see an animal displaying any of the symptoms above, please contact LDWF Headquarters in Baton Rouge or your local Regional Office.



Turtles

Managing an Overly Underutilized Resource by Pessimistic Optimism

BY JEFF BOUNDY, Ph.D., LDWF Herpetologist

One of my first tasks as an LDWF biologist was to work with turtles. This work, however, did not involve handling turtles, seeing turtles or even thinking about turtles. My task was to research and develop a system for raising baby sea turtles at an onshore facility at the Rockefeller Refuge. For that I had to take off my biologist hat and put on my hydraulic engineer hat. The latter hat was very small and limited, and fortunately the project was dropped. Box turtle harvest proved to be my first field and lab project with turtles, and razorback musk turtles my most recent. In the 21 years between I have learned much about turtles and the people who operate, manage or dictate the turtle industry.

There are 27 species of turtles in Louisiana and its coastal waters. The five sea turtles and the ringed sawback have been protected by the Endangered Species Act since before I worked here. All of the others were open to commercial and recreational harvest when I arrived in 1995. The commercial take of turtles repulsed some groups and organizations, and Louisiana was, and continues to be, criticized by activists. The accusations range from preposterous to somewhat reasonable, from inciting to insightful. A statement issued in the early 1990s, from a desktop in some northern city, warned (very incorrectly) that it was nearly impossible to see red-eared sliders in the wild anymore. Academics pushed population models that predicted an assured demise of some species, and there were regular proposals to list some or all turtles on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Aside from assuaging the staccato of protests from outside of Louisiana, I need-

ed to learn about the real situation as it existed for turtles in our state. In past decades turtles had been harvested for meat, pets and turtle farming. During the 1960s, an average of 97,000 lbs of freshwater turtles were landed each year, valued at \$15,400. During that decade, turtle farms produced an average of 900,000 baby turtles each year, valued at \$69,700. Determining what was being harvested in the 1990s proved problematic because turtles and other reptiles were no longer considered "fish" due to a 1991 statutory change. From that point there was no longer a mandatory reporting requirement - a situation that changed only this year.

As I wait for the mandatory turtle counts to roll in, I can reflect on my first biological assignment. In the early 1990s box

turtles were being exported from the United States by the thousands via the pet trade. Because box turtles are kind, wise creatures, and there aren't very many in New Jersey, activist typewriters cried out in black-and-white to put an end to the greedy purge. Box turtles became a member of CITES Appendix II beginning in 1995, and a zero export quota was imposed starting in 1996. One reason for the zero quota was because Louisiana did not have a box turtle management plan. My assignment from that point was to produce a plan, and the first task was to conceive an experimental study design. I selected three sites that each had a long harvest history, and three sites that were off limits to box turtle collectors. I contracted an exceptional field biologist, Steve Karsen, who spent two seasons plowing through the



Photo courtesy of USFWS

Red-eared Slider

steamy palmetto flatwoods of south Louisiana. I accompanied him at times, marking, sexing, measuring and ageing the turtles on the spot. Only a few young turtles were found because the juveniles tend to stay hidden until they are big enough to close their shells. At about 6 years of age, we found that the turtles would emerge from the leaf litter and stroll about the forest along with older adults. These debutantes were now sexually mature and subject to the coital endeavors of the older males. In order to successfully mate with an unreceptive female, a male needs to keep the rear part of her shell open, which requires quickly scrambling atop her and thrusting his rear feet between the shells before she can close the two halves. If he isn't quick enough, he can remedy the situation by biting her on the snout, causing her to close the front part of the shell which automatically opens the rear.

Over 400 box turtles were captured, and many were recaptured. Analyzing our catch revealed that no significant differences existed in a number of demographic variables between harvested and protected sites. There were, however, about 2.5 times as many turtles on the protected sites. After pondering the results, I concluded that a good management plan would be a male-only harvest because the sex of the turtles is easily discerned in the field, and males presumably inseminated multiple females each season. But none of this mattered. Before the harvest plan could be brought before the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the legislature passed an act banning commercial use of box turtles in Louisiana; except that box turtles could be sold by turtle farms.

During the last 40 years, Louisiana turtle farms have had to be resilient and innovative due to repeated obstacles, and they have - mostly. The first problem was likely the most severe: a 1975 ban on domestic sales of any turtles under 4 inches carapace length. The "4-inch rule" was a product of the Food and Drug Administration, resulting from cases of salmonellosis in children who had pet turtles. The problem of baby turtles testing positive for *Salmonella* was solved by Richard Siebeling of Louisiana State University. The "Siebeling Method" consists of exposing turtle eggs in a vacuum chamber to Gentamycin, which required farms to construct antiseptic facilities. But then farmers were told to stop using Gentamycin because repeated exposure could produce resistant forms of *Salmonella*. Farmers then began using a polyhydrochloride to successfully prohibit salmonella growth, and by 1984 the 4-inch rule was ready for repeal.

While turtle farmers periodically worked with congressmen to eliminate the 4-inch rule, their efforts were compounded by a constant flow of other problems. In advance of one potential 4-inch overthrow, a number of states banned the importation of the most popular species - red-eared sliders. Prior to that, the European Union banned red-eared slider importation, as eventually did Mexico. In the meantime, hatchling red-eared slider prices destined for China dropped from a dollar to 15 or 20 cents each. The inability to sell red-eared sliders to so many places, or

under the cost of production, forced a majority of turtle farms to go out of business. By 2016 there were 12 viable turtle farms in Louisiana, decreased from 88 in 10 years.

One reason so many farms were closed was a lack of diversification - most farms only sold red-eared sliders, and maybe one or two additional species. A few farms sold multiple species, or began to investigate alternative species when one turtle would become unprofitable. My interest in turtle farmers would be minimal, except that they stock their ponds with turtles from the wild. Until recently, supplemental stocking was inconsequential, consisting mostly of common species such as red-eared sliders, cooters, map turtles and softshells. Around 2010 there was a shift in turtle exports from basking or "streak-necked" turtles, to bottom-dwelling species. Diversified farmers reloaded ponds with snapping, mud, musk and stinkpot turtles, which were trapped out of the wild by tens of thousands each year. These, too, were mostly wide-ranging, common species that were already in the pet and meat trade. I monitored export data to get an idea of what might be leaving the waters of Louisiana, and got two surprises. About the time I noticed a sharp increase in razorback musk turtle exports (a first for any Louisiana turtle species in decades), two turtle trappers visited me to find out where they could get more razorbacks. They had my attention. Suddenly these odd bottom turtles were gold, and trappers were looking for new streams to fish them as they made their way across the state.

Trappers told me that razorbacks were being "fished-out" of some streams. I knew that the term just meant that it was no longer profitable to trap turtles there, but the situation called for a population study. What ensued was a three-way race that could have ended mutually beneficial, but instead proved unsatisfactory to all parties. I needed to harness the ambition of the trappers so that I could obtain data for a population study. However, I didn't have the \$13 per turtle to get the trappers to mark and release them, plus I could find no reference stream that hadn't already been "fished-out." Most trappers found that they could make more money shipping their turtles to China than to sell them to turtle farmers. The turtle farmers didn't want adult turtles going to China because razorback value would begin to drop before farmers could begin a steady production of hatchlings. The situation has reached stagnation: a moratorium on wild take of razorbacks goes into effect October 2016 and no population study is likely to follow, trappers and reptile dealers have lost a source of income, and turtle



farms will have to work with what breeding stock they have on hand.

Ideally trappers would have worked a data-gathering procedure into their routine, and a mutually agreeable price could have gotten trappers to sell to farmers. At times this system seems to work. Between 1998 and 2013 I contracted a commercial trapper to catch alligator snapping turtles, and he did - over 700 of them - which provided an extremely valuable dataset. But, he too caught "razorback fever" and exited from a university contract.

What is left of turtle commerce in Louisiana? Eleven of our 27 turtle species are now prohibited from commercial take, two more are marginal or transient in the state, and several, such as the pearl map turtle and chicken turtle, have proven inviable on farms. Turtle farms are well-stocked with a half dozen other species, and there is a steady export of a couple other widespread species. Twelve of the non-endangered species are listed in one of the CITES appendices. That leaves the diamondback terrapin as a species of interest, but they too are a CITES animal and can only be taken by hand. Which means that they are only painstakingly added to farms for breeding stock. Most food turtles, snappers and soft-shells these days, are imported to Louisiana from the Midwest. Chinese turtle farms are glutted with many of our turtles, leaving Louisiana farmers with a few remaining economically viable species to export. The 4-inch rule is still in effect, and efforts to repeal it seem to have ceased. The European Union has just banned two more turtles that are commonly farmed.

Turtle trapping and farming may or may not see another decade. Fortunately for our native species, their commerce has been driven by lack of demand, not a lack of turtles. Turtles are long-lived animals, and their population trends will probably take many years to detect. In fact, I still see some of the box turtles that Steve Karsen and I marked. In April I found #DC35, first caught as a 1.5 year-old in March 1996. He is now in his 22nd year, grew from 86 to 170 mm carapace length, and has a healed wound from where a chunk of his shell is missing from some past encounter with an unsuccessful predator. As a young adult, he will still be biting snouts long after I have retired, and he will likely live to see a day that turtles return to being one of our underutilized resources.



Photo courtesy of USFWS



Photo by Brad M. Glorioso

LDWF Begins the Processes to Become SFI® Certified

BY DONALD "DUCK" LOCASCIO, JR., WMA Forestry Program Manager

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries includes the management of Louisiana's wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement and development. To successfully accomplish these goals on wildlife management areas (WMAs) commercial timber harvesting is often used to improve and enhance wildlife habitat. Timber markets and specific wood product demands have a direct effect on the management options available for wildlife habitat enhancement. Therefore, it is important that our wood products are attractive to buyers, allowing for the management of our timberlands for wildlife.

Over the past decade the global demand for sustainable wood products has prompted many wood producers in North America to seek third party certification of wood products through several certification programs. Not only are high percentages of exported wood products in demand, but domestic and local demands for certified sustainable wood products are increasing. As the demand for certified "environmentally responsible" wood products is increasing, the demand for raw timber at saw and paper mills is increasing.

Although responsible and sustainable forest management has always been the premise of habitat management on LDWF WMAs, the department realizes that third-party certification can benefit the agency in several ways. Certification will allow our wood products to be accepted into the export market, as well as the increasing domestic market for "green wood." It is hoped that this will increase the attractiveness of timber sales on WMAs, allowing managers greater opportunity and flexibility to provide wildlife habitat enhancement treatments. Forest certification can also be used to promote and demonstrate responsible forestry and wildlife habitat management to other agencies as well as private landowners throughout Louisiana. Participating in a sustainable forest certification program will demonstrate our social responsibility and environmental leadership. To realize these benefits, LDWF plans to certify approximately 490,000 acres of forestland through one of the world's most recognized, independent, third-party forest management certification standards; the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Program.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program is the largest single forest certification standard in the world. SFI third-party forest certification standards offer proof to the end consumer that a forest has been managed for multiple environmental, social and economic values. All SFI certifications require independent, third-party audits and are performed by internationally accredited certification bodies.

LDWF has completed an internal audit of its 490,000 acres of forested WMAs managed by the WMA Forestry Program and is preparing for the certification audit in order to achieve SFI certification. In September, all department-owned forested WMAs will be audited based on the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standards and Rules. The SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principles, 15 objectives, 37 perfor-

mance measures, and 101 indicators. The SFI standard covers key values such as protection of biodiversity, species at risk and wildlife habitat (sustainable harvest levels, protection of water quality, and promotion of regeneration).

Development and retention of quality wildlife habitat through sustainable forestry practices is the tenant of management on LDWF-owned WMAs. Through the SFI certification program the public, which entrusts the department to manage, conserve and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable wildlife resources and habitats, can remain confident that our WMAs are being managed to the highest standards for present and future generations to enjoy.



Sustainable forest management is an important tool used to improve wildlife habitat on wildlife management areas.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® INC. (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI program. SFI works collaboratively with conservation groups, local communities, youth, resource professionals, landowners and countless other organizations and individuals who share our passion for and commitment to healthy forests, responsible purchasing and sustainable communities. Since 2010, SFI has awarded 38 conservation and 28 community partnership grants totaling more than \$1.9 million to foster education, research and pilot efforts to better inform future decisions about our forests. When leveraged with project partner contributions, that total investment exceeds \$7.1 million. In addition, sustainable forestry is promoted through the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard and the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard. SFI on-product labels help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at www.sfiprogram.org and www.sfiprogram.org/Buy-SFI



Birds Without Borders

Continental Bird Conservation

BY JUDITH SCARL, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/North American Bird Conservation Initiative

One hundred years ago, North America united for birds.

This August marked the 100th anniversary of the first Migratory Bird Treaty. This groundbreaking international agreement between the United States and Canada, signed by Great Britain on Canada's behalf, was our country's first international commitment to protect natural resources across political boundaries. This milestone set the stage for continent-wide, cooperative protection of migratory birds. Twenty years later, with his country in the aftermath of revolution, Mexican president Lázaro Cárdenas committed his country to a treaty with the United States protecting birds and other wildlife, connecting all of North America in its efforts to protect our shared species. Even during times of tremendous economic and political instability, our three nations recognized the importance of migratory bird conservation and remained united to protect our shared species.

In this centennial year celebrating our earliest efforts towards international migratory bird protection, our three countries are uniting once again with a "State of

North America's Birds" report - a groundbreaking collaboration to evaluate bird populations in nine key ecosystems across the continent. This report, developed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and built using data collected by tens of thousands of citizen scientists across North America, is a call to action to governments, private industry and the public to come together to support a beloved shared resource: our migratory birds. This unprecedented, continent-wide analysis demonstrates the power of people to understanding conservation needs, and to make conservation happen.

Of the 1,154 bird species that occur in North America, one third are on the report's Watch List, which identifies high-risk species. In particular, birds that depend on oceans and tropical forests are most imperiled due to severe habitat threats, restricted ranges and declining populations. More than half of our seabirds are on the Watch List. They are threatened by ocean pollution, over-fishing, energy extraction,

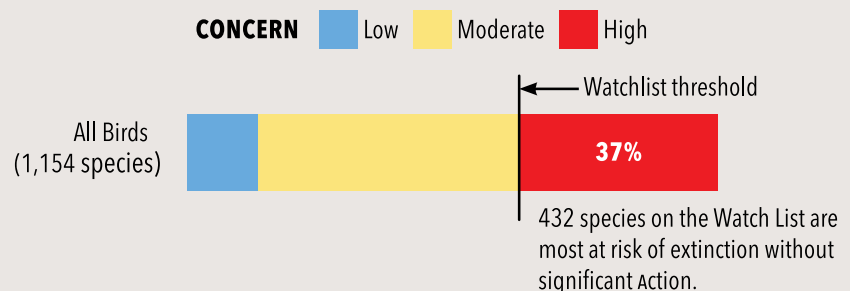
invasive species on islands that depredate nests, and climate change.

More than 50 boreal breeding bird species migrate to and through Mexico's tropical forests for winter. But while 80 percent of the boreal forest in Canada and the northern United States is still intact, tropical forests in Mexico suffer from dramatic deforestation. Mexican tropical forests have suffered greater than 70 percent habitat loss since the 1970s. As a result, more than half of Mexican tropical forest resident bird species are on the Watch List. Birds connect our continent, which means that deforestation and agricultural development in Mexico threaten species across North America.

Grassland birds are facing some of the steepest population declines of any group, putting many species on the Watch List. The vast majority of our continent's pre-settlement prairie has been converted to agriculture and residential development. As a result, grassland birds cling to fragmented remnants of their original habitats.



ONE-THIRD OF ALL NORTH AMERICAN BIRD SPECIES NEED URGENT CONSERVATION ACTION



In spite of these alarming numbers, we know that when people push for positive change, bird conservation succeeds. One hundred years ago, passionate wildlife supporters encouraged national leaders to invest in bird conservation by signing the Migratory Bird Treaty and putting an end to market hunting. Investments in wetlands have paid off too; the 1934 Duck Stamp Act reflected commitments by hunters to protect waterfowl habitat, a key accomplishment that has created a strong positive outlook for ducks, herons, egrets and many more birds. In the 1980s, the passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) secured funding to conserve wetland and upland habitat continent-wide. Over the past two decades, NAWCA has provided \$1.4 billion in grants that acted as a catalyst for generating \$2.9 billion in partner funds for projects on 30 million acres of habitat in all three countries. In Louisiana, 77 standard NAWCA grants have been approved since 1992 providing over \$62 million in grant funds for wetland habitat creation, restoration, enhancement and acquisition on both public and private lands in the Gulf Coast and Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Joint Venture areas. In addition, eight small grants totaling \$482,000 have been awarded for smaller wetland projects across the state. Louisiana has been a successful competitor for NAWCA funding largely because of the high value of the state's wetland habitat to migratory birds. Just as waterfowl migrate between Canada and Mexico and back again, conservation must be guided by the birds, rather than borders.

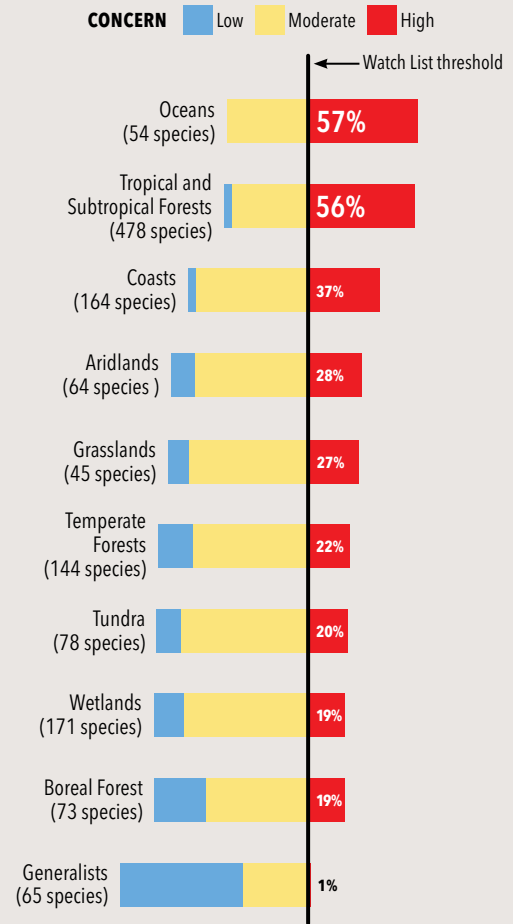
As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of first Migratory Bird Treaty, birds once again need our help. Fortunately, there are many ways to support strong bird populations. Corporations can emerge as sustainability leaders, making healthy lands and waters part of their long-term growth strategies. Federal, state and local governments can use science to inform and guide policy, supporting strong conservation practices. Even our individual actions can have far-reaching positive impacts. Simple acts like choosing sustainably created products (such as grass-fed beef, certified sustainable paper products, certified sustainable seafood, and Bird Friendly coffee), preventing bird collisions with windows on our houses and office buildings, and contributing bird sighting data to international databases like eBird can add up to a powerful continental force for bird conservation.

Over the last 100 years we have made great strides in tri-national bird conservation. But birds and their habitats are still threatened. It's time to recommit ourselves to this effort so we can look ahead to a bright future for birds in the next hundred years.

Read the full report at www.stateofthebirds.org. Learn more about the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial celebration at www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100. For more ideas about how you can support bird conservation, visit www.stateofthebirds.org/change.

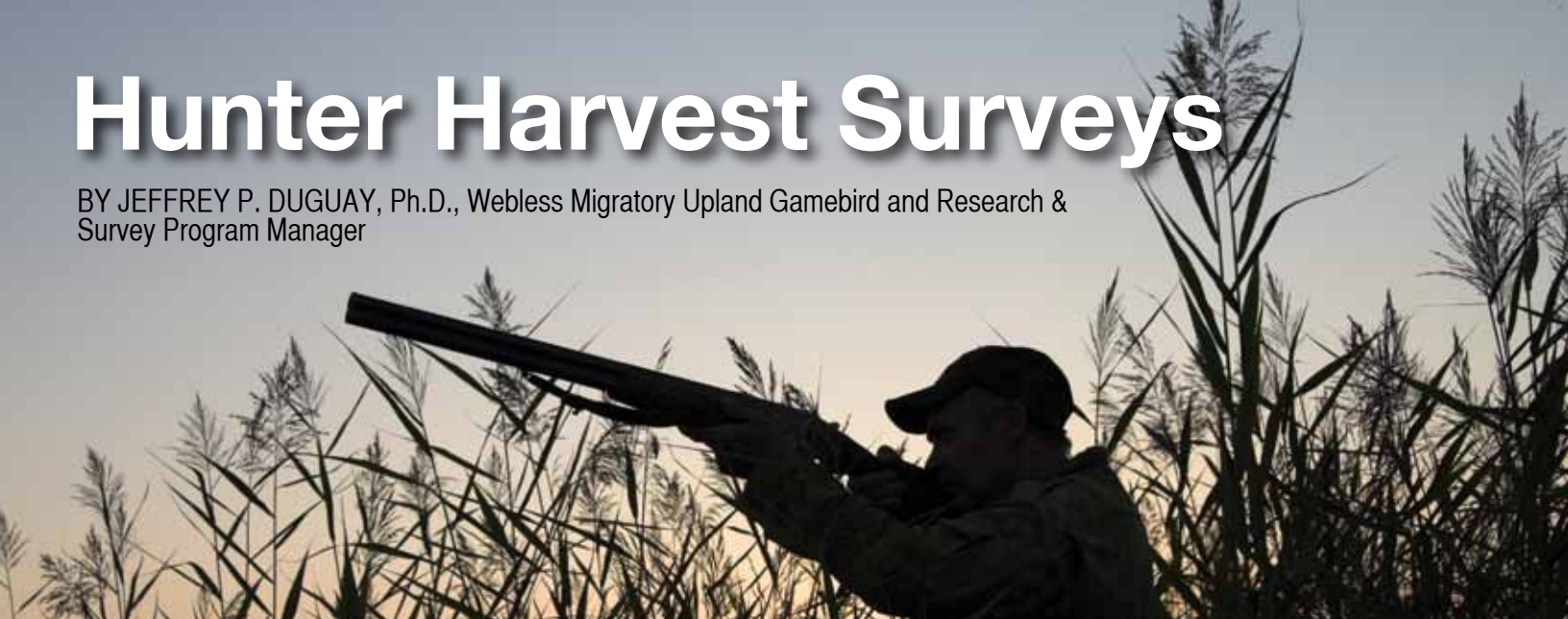


CONSERVATION CONCERN ACROSS HABITATS



Hunter Harvest Surveys

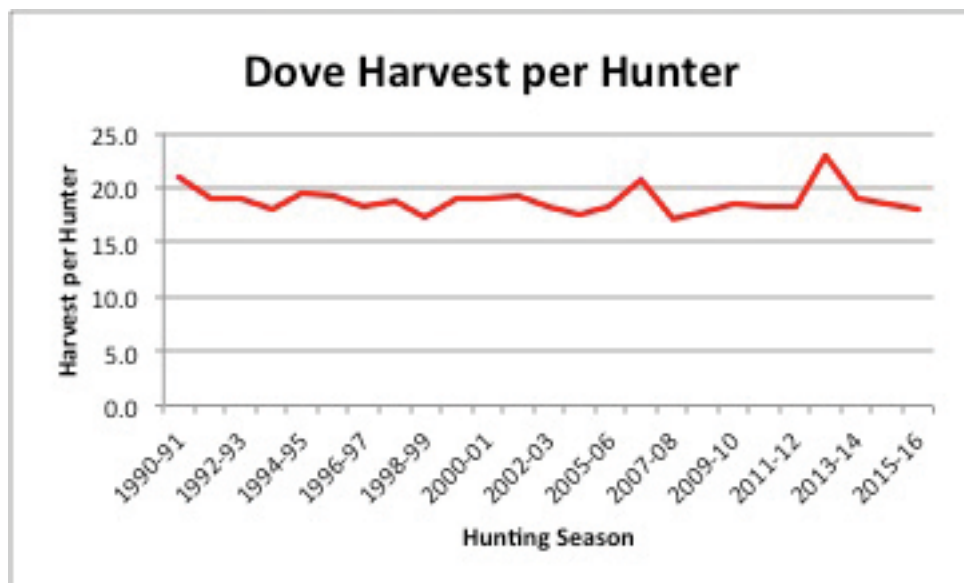
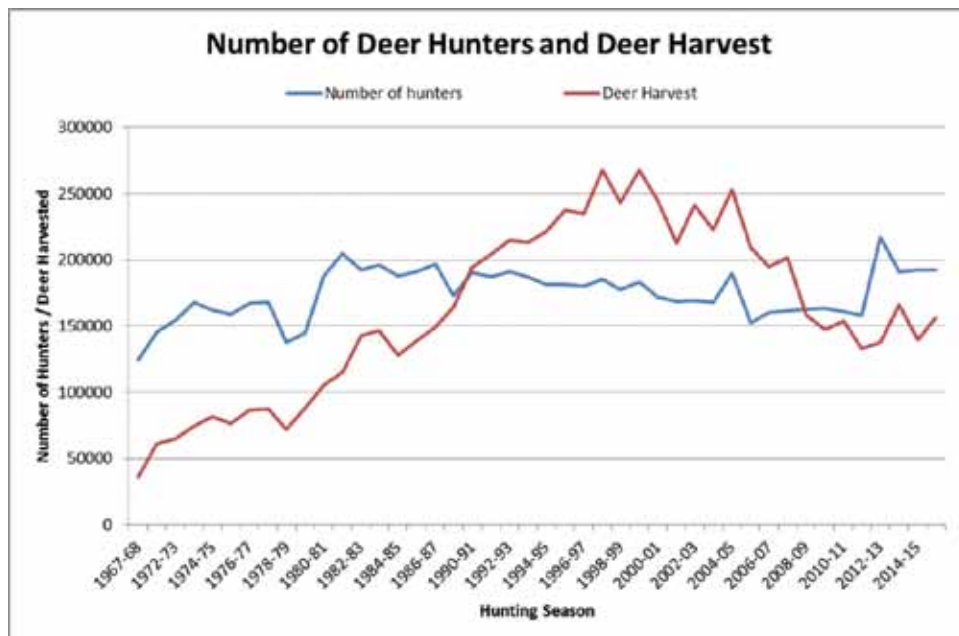
BY JEFFREY P. DUGUAY, Ph.D., Webless Migratory Upland Gamebird and Research & Survey Program Manager



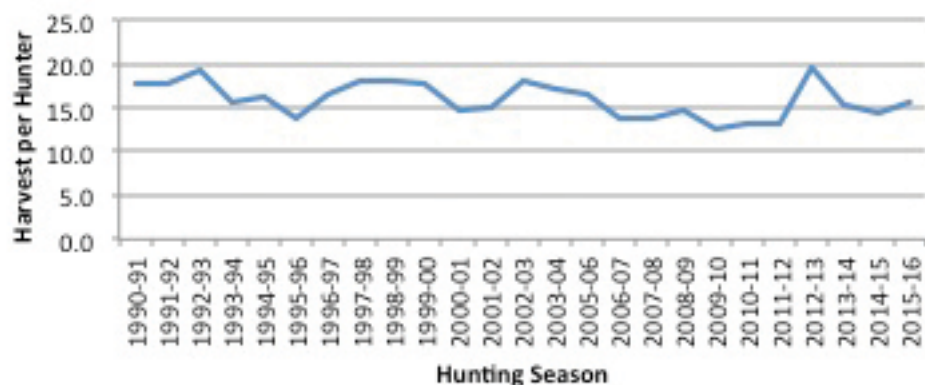
Each year since the 1990-1991 hunting season, LDWF has surveyed a random subset of licensed hunters to determine hunter effort and harvest trends for both big and small game and has surveyed big game hunters since the 1967-1968 hunting season. Information gathered from this survey is useful in monitoring hunting activities within the state and assists our biologists and administrators in making management decisions.

White-tailed deer are the most popular game species in the state. Based on the Hunter Harvest Survey the number of deer hunters in the state has been increasing over the last few years, following a decade-long slight but steady decline. Based on this survey, white-tailed deer harvest in Louisiana peaked in the mid- to late-1990s then declined steadily until the 2012-2013 hunting season when it again began a slight increase. During the 2015-2016 hunting season, a little over 156,000 deer were estimated to be harvested based on the Hunter Harvest Survey.

Mourning doves are the most sought after webless migratory gamebird in Louisiana. Long-term, both the number of dove hunters and doves harvested have been declining. The declining dove harvest is more an artifact of fewer dove hunters rather than a declining dove population. The number of doves harvested per dove hunter, based on the Hunter Harvest Survey, has remained constant at about 19 doves per hunter annually. Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service publishes an annual Mourning Dove Population Status report. Based on this report, dove numbers in Louisiana have been increasing.



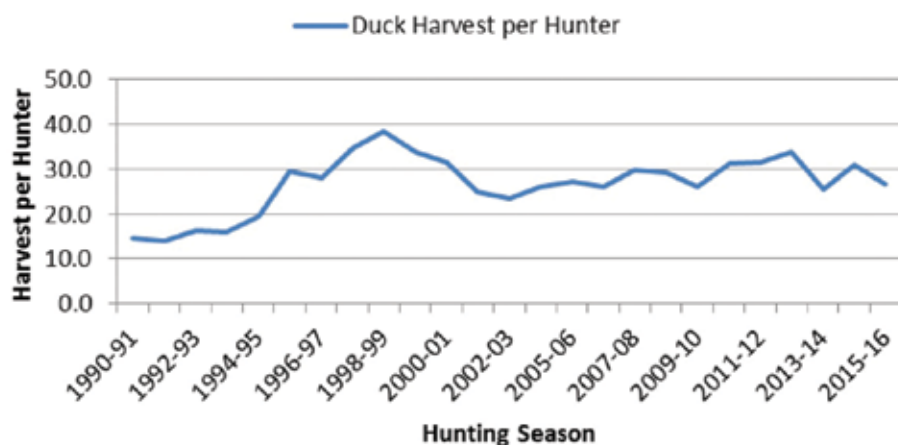
Squirrel Harvest per Hunter



Squirrels are the most popular resident small game in Louisiana, with hunters spending an estimated 700,400 days hunting squirrels during the 2015-2016 hunting season. Like mourning dove hunting, both the number of squirrel hunters and squirrels harvested have been declining long-term in the state. The number of squirrels harvested per hunter, however, has remained relatively constant over the last 25 years, averaging about 15 squirrels per hunter. This suggests that the decline in squirrel harvest is not due to fewer squirrels, but fewer squirrel hunters.

Louisiana hunters harvest more waterfowl than hunters in any other state, and waterfowl hunting provides many recreational days for Louisiana hunters. After a peak in duck harvest in the late 1990s and subsequent decline, there has been a slight but steady increase in the annual duck harvest in Louisiana. Following a decline in the number of duck hunters in Louisiana in the late 1990s, the number of duck hunters in the state has been fairly constant. The number of ducks harvested per hunter in Louisiana has been on a slight but steady increase since the 2001-2002 hunting season.

Duck Harvest per Hunter



LDWF uses many tools and methods in managing wildlife populations throughout the state with the goal of maintaining healthy populations that can be enjoyed by Louisiana sportsmen. The annual Hunter Harvest Survey is only one of the tools that LDWF uses to achieve this goal. If you should be one of the hunters randomly selected to fill out a Hunter Harvest Survey in the future, we ask that you take the time to complete the survey and in so doing you will help us to better manage our natural resources.





Going Hunting This Season?

BY MITCH SAMAHA, Wildlife Educator Supervisor

Summer vacation is over and the first cool fronts will be upon us before you know it. Feeling the first crisp air and cooler temperatures of the fall means many things to many people. For families that enjoy the sport of hunting these temperature changes are a signal to start preparing for a time-honored tradition dating back to the stone-age, a tradition shared between family and extremely close friends. There is something very unique about sharing the experience of hunting. Many life lessons are taught, many observations shared, and many memories are created. While hunting, there are no distractions to break the quality time spent between a child and parent, conversations in a deer stand or duck blind are a chance to reconnect, revisit and reinforce the relationship between individuals. In my collection of thoughts and emotions, some of the clearest and fondest memories I have are being at the hunting camp with my father, my mother and my brothers. I can recall every word spoken between my dad and I the day I harvested my first deer, even after 31 years. The experience of that day will never leave me and I know that long after I am gone my two children will have the same memories with me.

In Louisiana anyone can be introduced to the tradition of hunting at any age providing they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of an adult 18 years of age or older that is either exempt (born before Sept 1, 1969) or has successfully completed and has proof of a hunter education course. However, in order to hunt alone an individual must complete a hunter education course and, if over 16, be properly licensed. Each state has its own unique regulations regarding hunter education requirements, so if you intend to make an out-of-state hunting trip adhere to that state's regulations.

The hunter education program teaches students basics on outdoor survival, land-owner relations, ethical responsibility, safe firearm handling and responsible storage, firearm and ammunition basics, outdoor preparedness, and many other valuable lessons. In order to become certified, a person must be at least 10 years of age. Certification is for life and is honored world-wide. There are two options to take the hunter education course; the first is to attend a standard two-day 10-hour course and the other is the home study program/field day assessment. The standard course is rec-

ommended for children under the age of 14 and is free of charge. The home-study course is an online course where the student registers and completes the majority of the course at their own pace. There is a cost associated with the online course and it is a convenient option for older students with busy schedules. Once the student completes the online course they have one year to schedule a field day where they will take a standard test, live-fire firearms, and receive additional hands-on instruction. Every parish in Louisiana has courses available, with the vast majority of courses taught between August and November. To find a course in your area go to the LDWF website (www.wlf.la.gov) and look under hunter education. There are many memories waiting to be made in the outdoors with your children and hunting is one of the ways to get out and be a part of the natural world.

WMA Recreational Opportunities

	Primary Game											Access/Special Hunts				
	Deer	Dove	Quail	Rabbit	Raccoon	Squirrel	Turkey	Waterfowl	Woodcock	Fishing	Trapping	General Lottery Hunts	Youth Lottery Hunts	Physically Challenged Hunting Area	Physically Challenged Lottery Hunts	Camping
WMA																
Acadiana Conservation Corridor																
Alexander State Forest																
Atchafalaya Delta												Alligator				
Attakapas																
Bayou Macon																
Bayou Pierre																
Big Colewa Bayou																
Big Lake												Alligator				
Biloxi																
Bodcau																
Boeuf												Alligator				
Buckhorn												Alligator				
Camp Beauregard																
Clear Creek																
Dewey W. Wills																
Elbow Slough																
Elm Hall												Alligator				
Floy Ward McElroy																
Fort Polk -Vernon																
Grassy Lake												Alligator				
Hutchinson Creek																
J.C. Sonny Gilbert																
Joyce												Alligator				
Lake Boeuf												Alligator				
Lake Ramsay																
Little River																
Loggy Bayou																
Manchac												Alligator				
Marsh Bayou																
Maurepas Swamp												Alligator				
Pass-A-Loutre												Alligator				
Pearl River																
Peason Ridge																
Pointe-Aux-Chenes												Alligator				
Pomme De Terre												Alligator				
Richard K. Yancey												Alligator				
Russell Sage												Alligator				
Sabine																
Sabine Island																
Salvador/Timken												Alligator				
Sandy Hollow																
Sherburne																
Soda Lake																
Spring Bayou												Alligator				
Tangipahoa Parish School Board																
Thistlethwaite																
Tunica Hills																
Walnut Hill																
West Bay																

***Check hunting regulations for more specific rules/regulations, limits and hours regarding hunting and fishing on wildlife management areas.



Grassy Lake Wildlife Management Area

BY CODY HAYNES, South MAVWMA Biologist Supervisor

The Office of Wildlife of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) currently manages over 1.1 million acres in its Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program. The WMA Program's mission is to provide wise stewardship of the state's wildlife and habitats, to maintain biodiversity, including plant and animal species of special concern, and to provide outdoor opportunities for present and future generations to engender a greater appreciation of the natural environment. Habitats within these lands harbor and help conserve a multitude of endangered species, species of concern, and the more common game species. Recreational opportunities range from hunting and fishing, to canoeing, hiking, camping, bird watching, and berry picking. The habitats found on WMAs include upland pine/hardwood, cypress tupelo, pine savanna, bottomland hardwood, brackish marsh, and the list goes on with many globally rare habitat types and plant communities as well. Each issue of the Louisiana Wildlife Insider will feature a different WMA highlighting the WMA's history, unique features, and recreational opportunities.

Located in northeastern Avoyelles Parish, 30 miles northeast of Marksville, Grassy Lake WMA is comprised mainly of bottomland hardwood forest within the Red River floodplain and provides the public an excellent representation of natural and native habitats found within the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). The hardwood forests found on Grassy Lake WMA were not only influenced by but are dependent on the moist

soils found within the MAV. When purchased by LDWF in 1976, Grassy Lake WMA was 11,860 acres. Additional acquisitions have allowed the WMA to grow to the 12,983 acres that it is today. Twenty miles of limestone roads traverse through the WMA, and an additional 7 miles of ATV trails provide user access to further reaches. A year-round ATV trail can be found on the southwest side of the WMA, providing access to Bayou des Sot. Users can also take advantage of camping opportunities provided by three separate camping areas. Camping is primitive; electricity, water and restrooms are not provided.

The influence of the Red River can provide some seasonal flooding of portions of the WMA and are responsible for the primary composition of the bottomland hardwood forest present on Grassy Lake. Primary forest over-story species represented are bitter pecan, overcup oak and sugarberry. Some of the lower lying areas are comprised of bald cypress, green ash, swamp privet and button bush. Mid-story species include deciduous holly, hawthorn, roughleaf dogwood and swamp privet. Under-story plants include green briar, peppervine, trumpet creeper, rattan, dewberry, blackberry, Virginia creeper and poison ivy. These species compositions provide excellent mast production and browse for deer, squirrels and rabbits.

Forests within Grassy Lake WMA provide excellent habitat to many popular game species such as white-tailed deer, feral hogs, fox squirrel, swamp rabbit, woodcock and eastern wild turkey. There are also many areas within the WMA that provide waterfowl

hunting opportunities. Waterfowl species harvested may include mallards, gadwall, green-winged and blue-winged teal, lesser scaup and ring-necked duck. Coot and mergansers are also commonly encountered. Four lakes within the WMA provide waterfowl hunting opportunities and boat launches are provided at each one. Concrete boat launches are located on Smith Bay and Grassy Lake and dirt boat launches are located on Red River Bay and Bayou Chenier. These permanent waters also provide some fishing opportunities for bream, bass and crappie.

Large game hunting on Grassy Lake WMA is provided for deer, turkey and feral hogs. Deer hunting is the most popular activity on the WMA. The late onset of the rut in Deer Zone 6 allows for hunting season on Grassy Lake WMA to extend until February 15. Grassy Lake offers opportunities for archery, primitive firearm and modern firearm hunts during the hunting season. The average harvest over the last 10 years is 185 deer/year, with over 2,000 reported hunter efforts each year. During the 2014 managed either sex hunt, Grassy Lake posted one of the highest harvest rates among state WMAs, harvesting one deer per 5.2 hunter efforts.

Small game hunting is very popular on Grassy Lake WMA as well. The fox squirrel is the most abundant squirrel on the WMA, but gray squirrels are regularly harvested as well. Rabbit hunting is also a popular sport on Grassy Lake, with the swamp rabbit being the predominant species. The use of dogs for squirrel and rabbit hunting is allowed during a special season.

Turkey hunting on the WMA is fair and a lottery youth turkey hunt provides a quality experience for young hunters. During the spring 2015 season, 11 turkeys were harvested with 101 hunter efforts. Grassy Lake is in Area A turkey zone, with the general season opening the same date as private lands, but closing earlier, with a nine-day season. On occasion, high back water levels mandate a season closure.

Fishing is good on Grassy Lake, both recreationally and commercially. Primary species available are largemouth bass, crappie, bream and catfish. The lakes and bayous within Grassy Lake support a large population of alligators. Alligators represent another renewable resource on the WMA, and 25 harvest tags are issued annually. Tags are bid on a three-year basis to the highest bidder, based on the percentage of revenues received from the harvest that are returned to LDWF.

Non-consumptive users can enjoy the many unique neo-tropical migrant species that often utilize bottomland hardwood habi-

tats during their spring and fall migrations such as white-eyed vireos and prothonotary, Swainson's, Bachman's, hooded and Kentucky warblers. Other avian residents of the forest may include hairy woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, screech owls, great horned owls, broad-winged hawks, swallow-tailed kites, Mississippi kites, chuck-will's widow and wood thrush. Low-lying inundated areas also provide quality habitats for many species of wading birds, such as great egrets, great blue herons, green herons and yellow- and black-crowned night herons. Along with birdwatching many other outdoor activities are available for users, including hiking, horseback riding and camping.

Grassy Lake is also home to the Louisiana black bear. Sightings currently are infrequent, but are expected to become more common. Other furbearing mammals occurring on the WMA include beaver, mink, raccoon, river otter, nutria, bobcat, skunk, red fox, gray fox, opossum and coyotes. Trapping is allowed.

Grassy Lake WMA is also home to many different species of reptiles and amphibians. Flipping over a few logs may reveal marbled or spotted salamanders or even a newt eft. But beware, the WMA is also home to all three of Louisiana's venomous pit viper species: the cottonmouth, timber rattlesnake and the copperhead.

Please refer to the WMA rules and regulations for other permitted activities in addition to the opportunities discussed above. Grassy Lake WMA is a site along the Wetlands Birding Trail.



Philip Allen Manuel

Philip Manuel has been a volunteer hunter education instructor for over 15 years. He regularly teaches several classroom and field day hunter education courses each year. Philip partners with local fire departments, churches, Lion's Clubs and LDWF in order to teach hunter education to students in four parishes. He introduces students to the LDWF wildlife management areas (WMAs) by teaching a hunter education course at the Sherburne WMA. Philip is a strong supporter of the WMA system, and often encourages new hunters to use Louisiana's WMAs. He even goes so far as to take them squirrel and woodcock hunting on different WMAs. When asked why he became a volunteer hunter education instructor, Philip said, "By becoming a volunteer hunter education instructor I saw an opportunity to make a change early on in a hunter's career by teaching them respect for game laws and hunting ethics. It is my way of making a difference in a young hunter's life and a way to give back to the hunting community."

In addition to being a long-time volunteer hunter education instructor, Philip also donates his time to assist with other LDWF events, such as Step Outside Day (SOD), the Louisiana Hunter Mentoring Program, Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) and the Hunter Education Instructor Workshop.

In his free time Philip is an avid squirrel and bird hunter, dog trainer and field trial judge. He enjoys introducing new hunters to the sport and assisting them with training their dogs. Philip has even donated a trained dog to the YHEC group to auction off as a fund raiser to help send youths to compete in national contests. Philip has set up dog training demonstrations at several events to promote the sport of bird hunting, and he brings his dogs and pigeons in order to demonstrate how he teaches dogs to find, point and flush birds.

Philip is an outstanding and reliable volunteer. He is an excellent representative of, and an important contributor to, LDWF education programs. We are fortunate to have volunteers like Philip who unselfishly give of their time and are willing to share their knowledge and passion for the outdoors with others.



Additional information concerning Grassy Lake Wildlife Management Area can be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Opelousas Field Office, 5652 Hwy 182, Opelousas, LA 70570. (337) 948-0255.



Johnny Berry
Private Lands Program Biologist

In 2009 while pursuing a B.S. in Renewable Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Louisiana State University, Johnny was hired on with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to assist with the Avian Influenza Surveillance Program and the Feral Swine Disease Project. Shortly after graduation in December 2010, Johnny was hired as a WMA Biologist out of the Hammond Field Office, and after a short four months transferred to the Private Lands Section out of the Monroe Field Office where he is currently employed. Johnny is the Private Lands Biologist for five parishes in the northeast corner of the state. He works closely with private landowners, providing them with technical assistance on any wildlife habitat issue that may arise on their property. He also implements the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) on over 100 properties in his parishes, conducts the Northeast Aerial Waterfowl Survey, traps and bands wood ducks and mourning doves, provides assistance on nuisance bear issues, assists in the Louisiana Black Bear Recovery Program, and provides farmers and landowners help with feral swine problems on their lands.

Johnny lives and works in and around the largest black bear population in the state. He works closely with many landowners on their property trapping and collaring bears for survival and reproductive research. Johnny works tirelessly to resolve all nuisance bear conflicts in his work area, being attentive to the landowners and the resources he is responsible for each day. Johnny’s work with private landowners in NE Louisiana has been integral to the recovery of the bear. Johnny recalls one day when a call came into the Monroe Office about a bear hanging around the Tallulah Golf and Country Club. Johnny responded by calling the staff at the Country Club to assess the situation and gather more information. The staff said that a large bear had been in the area for several days and would not leave. By the time Johnny got off the phone the bear had climbed up a small tree and was huffing and popping its jaws at the golfers as

they passed by. Johnny and another fellow biologist, Justin Ebarb, arrived at the golf course to find a 380 pound male black bear just feet up a small tree and a few yards from a fairway with golfers trying to play the hole. Acting quickly, Johnny darted the bear, anesthetizing him. Johnny enlisted the help of several golfers and Justin to help him load the large bear into his truck for transport to nearby Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge, where it could be monitored until awaking from the anesthesia and then be released.

Johnny is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing throughout Louisiana. He spends much of his recreational time on game-rich WMAs and NWRs across the northern portion of the state. He also enjoys crappie fishing in the spring and summer months and speckled trout fishing in south Louisiana in the summer and fall.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
GENERAL	Dormant season prescribe burn.** Invasive plant control. Take soil samples for food plot preparation.		Growing season prescribe burn, invasive plant control, soil tests, prune and fertilize fruit/mast trees.	Apply herbicide to longleaf stands if necessary, growing season prescribe burn, invasive plant control, fertilize native vegetation.	Plant warm-season food plots*, perform maintenance of fire breaks, growing season prescribe burn, invasive plant control.
DOVES					
DEER	Collect harvest data.	Post-season camera survey before antlers are cast.** Turn in DMAP records to LDWF.		Browse survey. Work on summer food plots. Fertilize natural deer browse.	
DUCKS/ MOIST-SOIL UNITS		Install new wood duck boxes and clean out existing boxes. Early draw down for moist soil units.	Begin slowly drawing down moist soil units monitor wood duck nest boxes.	Moist-soil plant management/disturbance.	
HOGS	Trap hogs****		Trap hogs		
QUAIL	Prescribe burn/fallow disk.			As needed prescribe burn woody brush areas/avoid mowing-burning all potential nesting areas (2 yr. old native grass areas).	
RABBITS	As needed prescribe burn/disk/mow transition zones.			Escape cover can be created any time during the year as needed.	
SONGBIRDS		Install new bird houses and clean out existing boxes.	Regularly clean bird feeders to reduce disease transfer, prevent nonnative, invasive birds from utilizing bird houses.		
SQUIRRELS					
TURKEY	Prescribe burn/fallow disk/mow for poult habitat.		Listen to gobbling activity prior to hunting season fallow disk/mow for poult habitat growing season burning.	Plant chufa. Growing season burning as needed to improve thick woody brush areas - avoid mowing potential nesting areas.	
WOODCOCK	Future diurnal habitat can be created any time during the year as needed using clearcuts, shelterwood, group selection.				

*always remember that planting food plots is secondary to natural habitat management; food plots benefit several species including deer, turkeys, quail, and non-game species.
**prescribed burning is beneficial to several species including turkey and quail by providing more open habitat for easy movement through the landscape, grasses and forbs for nesting, food,
***pre-season camera survey more informative/important than post-season camera survey by visualizing buck:doe and doe:fawn ratios and aiding in harvest decisions.
****increase hog trapping effort prior to increases in food availability



Angela Guidry, Ph.D.

Alligator Program Biologist

Angela's career in natural resource management began in high school. She worked for two summers during high school at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. Angela earned a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Science from McNeese State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Atmospheric, Environmental and Water Resources from South Dakota State University in 2002. Her dissertation work focused on nutrient (phosphorus) management in agriculture fields in eastern South Dakota. Her work led to the establishment of a Phosphorus (P) Index for South Dakota, the point at which no more phosphorus can be applied to farm fields because the soil is saturated with P, and the likelihood of movement of P with runoff greatly increases.

Angela worked for three years with the East Dakota Water Development District to develop and implement a watershed improvement project along the Big Sioux River. Through her efforts, local farmers and ranchers were able to improve their operations by taking advantage of cost share assistance to upgrade their feedlots to manage animal waste and fencing their cattle out of river and stream beds with the goal of reduction in fecal coliform bacteria and total suspended solids in the waterways. Angela then spent eight years working for SGS (an international testing and inspection company) as a soil lab manager and a field scientist with the research group. Angela promoted the use of geo-reference soil sampling

and variable rate fertilizer maps to reduce off site nutrient movement. With the research group, she worked with fertilizer, pesticides, and seed varieties growing corn, soybean, wheat, canola, and energy grass.

Angela joined LDWF one year ago as a biologist with the Alligator Management Program. She couldn't pass up the opportunity to come back to Louisiana and work in her backyard. Angela grew up in Cameron Parish not far from Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. In her current position, she has worked to transition the alligator database from a DOS based program to a windows based program. Angela also collaborates on alligator management research through Rockefeller, LSU and the alligator farmers and ranchers. She evaluates property for tag assignment for the wild harvest season in addition to working with farmers on the release program.

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Growing season prescribe burn. Invasive plant control.		Invasive plant control. Bushhog/mow roads, fields.	Mast survey. Plant cool-season food plots.* Invasive plant control.	Invasive plant control.		Dormant season prescribe burn.** Invasive plant control.
Plant brown-top millet for first season dove fields.		Manipulate dove fields for hunting plant brown-top millet for second season dove fields.				
Provide mineral supplements.		Apply for DMAP.	Pre-season camera survey.*** Begin deer stand repairs and prep for hunting season	Pre-season camera survey.***	Collect harvest data.	
Moist-soil plant management/disturbance.		Begin partial flooding for teal, begin duck blind repairs and prep for hunting season.	Manipulate moist soil if needed; mow, disc, burn, plow, herbicide.	Start main flooding of moist soil units.		
		Trap hogs****		Trap hogs		
				Fallow disk borders 50 - 100' wide around fall deer plots to improve summer quail nesting-feeding habitat.		
Escape cover can be created any time during the year as needed.				Disk near cover to improve feeding habitat.		
Regularly clean bird feeders to reduce disease transfer, prevent nonnative, invasive birds from utilizing bird houses.					Install new bird houses and clean out existing boxes.	
			Take a youth hunting during special WMA youth squirrel hunts.	Install squirrel nest boxes.		
Plant chufa.				Plant clover for spring plots.		
Future diurnal habitat can be created any time during the year as needed using clearcuts, shelterwood, group selection.				Bushhog to a height of 12-18 inches and/or burn openings managed for nocturnal habitat.		

and summer bedding cover for deer, etc.

LDWF WILDLIFE DIVISION STAFF

Office of Wildlife
P.O. Box 98000 Baton Rouge, LA 70898
225-765-2346 225-765-2350

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION



BATON ROUGE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



DEER PROGRAM



DOVE, WOODCOCK & RESEARCH PROGRAM



LA HUNTING HERITAGE PROGRAM



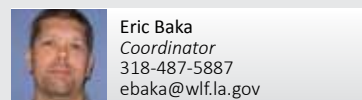
LARGE CARNIVORE PROGRAM



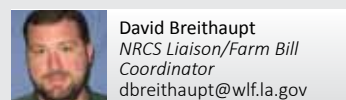
EDUCATION PROGRAM



SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM



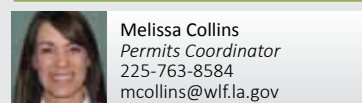
TECHNICAL SERVICES/ FARM BILL PROGRAM



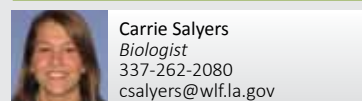
SMALL GAME & TURKEY PROGRAM



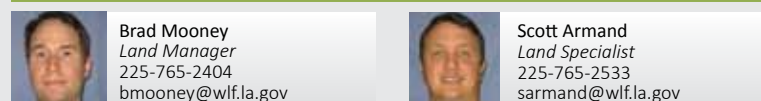
WILDLIFE PERMITS OFFICE



WILDLIFE OUTREACH



LANDS ASSESSMENT



WMA FORESTRY PROGRAM



WATERFOWL PROGRAM



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA BIOLOGISTS



Steve Smith
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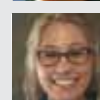


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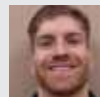
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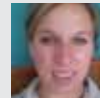


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HABITAT IS THE POINT

About 4 million acres were once longleaf pine forest in Louisiana. Today, less than 10 percent of that original acreage remains. The longleaf pine ecosystem is a fire-dependent ecosystem. Regular burning of longleaf pine forests promotes an open understory rich in native grasses and forbs, providing ideal food and cover for many species of wildlife such as bobwhite quail, wild turkey, gopher tortoises, red-cockaded woodpeckers and many others. If you are interested in managing longleaf pine on your property contact your local private lands biologist.



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Tree Stand Safety

As we prepare for the upcoming deer hunting season here are a few interesting statistics and some tips you may follow to have a safe hunt. Statistics have shown that tree stand accidents are currently the number one cause of hunter-related injury every season. In fact, it's estimated that one out of every three deer hunters who hunt from elevated stands are likely to experience a fall at some point in their lives that will result in serious injury. In order to avoid these senseless and often tragic accidents, follow these important safety tips when hanging, climbing, hunting, or descending from a tree stand this fall. Remember, always follow your tree stand's owner's manual before taking your tree stand into the woods.

Taking a little extra time to be safe will ensure good memories for you and your family of all your hunting adventures.

- Select the proper tree before hanging a fixed-position stand or using a climbing stand. The tree should be alive and healthy without noticeable rot or damage. The tree should also meet the size specifications and restrictions set by the tree stand manufacturer.
- NEVER hunt from a tree stand without a secure and high-quality safety harness. It only takes one fall to suffer a serious injury or permanently end your hunting career.
- A strong and sturdy safety rope (or strap) should be attached to both the harness and the tree to prevent falling more than 12-inches.
- Continuously monitor and inspect the safety harness and tree stand before and during the season to check for wear and tear or possible damage.
- When hunting from a fixed position or hang-on stand always inspect the ladder steps and tree stand attachments to make sure everything is tightly secured to the tree.
- Always use a haul line to pull-up gear, bow or unloaded firearm. Never climb with anything in your hands or attached to your back. Before climbing down, utilize the haul line to safely lower all equipment on the opposite side of the tree.
- Be sure to let family and friends know the exact tree stand location that you're currently hunting. When at all possible, hunt with a buddy and always carry a communication device like a cell-phone or walkie-talkie that can easily be reached on your body at any time.
- Follow the 3-Point rule, which says always have 3-points of contact to your steps or ladder when climbing or descending from your stand.
- Be aware of slippery and hazardous climbing conditions that may result from rain, sleet, snow or ice and take the appropriate precautions.
- When using a climbing stand, make slow, steady and even movements of no more than 12 inches at a time. Make sure the climbing section and platform of the stand are attached together by some type of safety cord or rope.



MORE INFORMATION

LDWF has produced several short, treestand safety videos that are available at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting-safety-videos

In addition the Treestand Manufacturer's Association website www.tmastands.com provides information about safe use of treestands and safety equipment.