



# The Osprey

The bulletin of the International Fellowship  
of Bird Watching Rotarians  
[www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com](http://www.Rotarybirdwatchers.com)

September 2011

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**From Your IFBR President:**

Welcome to a new year of birding adventures! Like me, I hope you're eagerly anticipating the many new species to be seen at our next convention field trip in Bangkok, Thailand.

More than ever, we need members to help in the booth at the Bangkok convention. Since I am RI Fellowships Chair again this year, I must devote myself to keeping the General Fellowships booth open. If you can give a couple of hours, please contact your newsletter editor, Susan. **I WILL NOT REQUEST A BOOTH FOR IFBR UNLESS WE HAVE SEVERAL MEMBERS WILLING TO WORK. PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN OR ME BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2012 IF YOU CAN HELP.**

See inside for a report on the New Orleans field trip. I sincerely hope that you will plan to stay after the 2012 convention to join other IFBR members and friends on another exciting adventure! Remember the date—it's even earlier this year than last: **Thursday, May 10, 2012.**

As you will note in the minutes from the New Orleans meeting, we are in need of a new treasurer. Roger Borup of Florida, USA has done an excellent job, but is no longer able to help in this capacity. **If you are willing to keep track of our money and membership roster, please let me know!** We have a special account at a bank near my home, so you wouldn't have to do the actual banking.

In the interests of sharing helpful information about birding, would you please send us your recommendations about using *ibird Pro* or any other useful birding application for Smartphones, as well as software and websites you find helpful to your birding endeavors? (There's more about websites on page 4.) We'd love to include your thoughts in the next issues of *The Osprey*!

Happy Birding from President Steve



## Annual Birding Field Trip, 26 May 2011 City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana USA

by Susan Leonard, newsletter editor

| <i>Species Seen</i>                               | <i>Heard only</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| Canada Goose (feral)                              |                   |
| Wood Duck (with 6 young)                          |                   |
| Mallard (Domestic type)                           |                   |
| Great Blue Heron                                  |                   |
| Great Egret                                       |                   |
| Little Blue Heron                                 |                   |
| Cattle Egret                                      |                   |
| Green Heron                                       |                   |
| Black-crowned Night Heron                         |                   |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron                        |                   |
| White Ibis  |                   |
| Mississippi Kite                                  |                   |
| Red-shouldered Hawk                               |                   |
| Killdeer  |                   |
| Laughing Gull (flyover)                           |                   |
| Rock Pigeon                                       |                   |
| Mourning Dove                                     |                   |
| Monk Parakeet                                     |                   |
| Barred Owl  |                   |
| Chimney Swift                                     |                   |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker                            |                   |
| Downy Woodpecker                                  |                   |
| Great Crested Flycatcher<br>(pair at nest cavity) |                   |
| Eastern Kingbird                                  |                   |
| Blue Jay  |                   |
| American Crow                                     |                   |
| Fish Crow   |                   |
| Purple Martin                                     |                   |
| Carolina Chickadee                                |                   |
| Tufted Titmouse                                   | x                 |
| Carolina Wren                                     | x                 |
| American Robin                                    |                   |
| Northern Mockingbird                              |                   |
| European Starling                                 |                   |
| Northern Cardinal                                 | x                 |
| Red-winged Blackbird                              | x                 |
| Common Grackle                                    |                   |
| Boat-tailed Grackle                               |                   |
| Bronzed Cowbird                                   |                   |
| Brown-headed Cowbird                              |                   |
| House Sparrow                                     |                   |

Field trip leader Glenn Ousset from the Orleans Audubon Society led us on a fascinating trip to City Park, which was under 6' of water after Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005.

After our trip, Glenn reported that he “forwarded the list, prominently mentioning Birding Rotarians, to John Hopper of City Park management, to increase their appreciation of the richness they have in birds and nature and the power of those resources to increase use of the park by residents and visitors.” We donated \$120 to the Orleans Audubon Society. (see note on page 4)

Glenn’s bird list was generated automatically by eBird v2 (<http://ebird.org>)



**TRIP OPPORTUNITY**

**MEMBER ELENA LABORDE-BISHOP IS INVESTIGATING  
A TRIP TO COSTA RICA, INCLUDING STAYS AT 2 JUNGLE LODGES, INCLUDING LAGUNA  
DEL LAGARTO,  
OWNED BY MEMBER KURT SCHMAK.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT HER RIGHT AWAY AT  
[ELABORDE@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:ELABORDE@SBCGLOBAL.NET)  
DON'T DELAY—YOU CAN DETERMINE WHEN THE TRIP WILL BE!**

***International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
New Orleans, Louisiana USA--24 May 2011***

President Steve Leonard called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Present were: Helen Penna, New York, USA; Lani Miller, Ecuador; John Clutton, UK; Shirley Clutton, UK; Susan Leonard, Indiana, USA; Steve Leonard, Indiana, USA. Also present was one non-member, John, from Wyoming, USA.

Steve gave the financial report, in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Roger Borup. The balance is \$2109.50 US with an additional \$500 US just received from John Clutton from the Birmingham convention. Steve distributed copies of the annual financial report. He stated that collecting dues from outside the US is still a problem unless people pay at the convention.

John Clutton reported that the Birmingham birding trip included a brand new reserve as well as an existing one. About 53 different species were observed. (A report of the trip appeared in an earlier issue of *The Osprey*.) He encouraged everyone to go on the trip on May 26 this year.

Old Business-None

New Business

-Possible projects:

- 1) Member Angus Robinson has suggested a project for protection of the habitat of the Eastern Bristlebird in Queensland, New South Wales, Australia. Helen moved to donate \$500 US. Seconded by John and passed.
- 2) John mentioned the possibility of donating to protection of a bird in the New Orleans area. We have no information on it and will ask our guide for Thursday's trip to provide it to us.
- 3) Lani mentioned efforts to save small areas in Ecuador with a focus on education and awareness. The program is called "Aves en conservacion." She will send information on the program to President Steve.

-Newsletter: Steve asked for help with the newsletter, but there were no volunteers.

-Facebook page: John said he would help.

-URL: Our URL must change, due to RI request to remove the work Rotary from all the Fellowships' names, etc. Consensus to change URL to RotarianBirdWatchers.org

-Field Trip: Our leader is Glenn Ousset from the Orleans Audubon Society. We will meet at City Park at 7 a.m. Thursday. Maps are at the booth.

-Working the booth:

- 1) We still need people to work the booth today and tomorrow.
- 2) Steve will solicit members to work the booth at Bangkok, but will not request a booth from the HOC until he knows members will keep it covered. He is responsible both this year and next for the All-Fellowships booth. For next year, if necessary, we could have sign-up for the birding trip at the All-Fellowships booth.

-Election of officers: John moved to continue the current officers. Seconded by Helen and passed. The office of Secretary/Treasurer will remain open until we can get a volunteer, as Roger Borup is no longer able to serve. The officers approved through this motion are President Steve Leonard and Vice President Julie West. Steve explained the change he and Roger made so that the bank account is now under Steve's name, Doing Business As (DBA) International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians.

The group thanked Steve and Susan for their work on behalf of the Fellowship.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Leonard  
Secretary Pro Tem

## THANK YOU

*From Jennifer Coulson, President, Orleans Audubon Society*

"I am writing on behalf of the Orleans Audubon Society to thank you and other members of the Birding Rotarians who made a donation of \$120.00 to the Society on May 26, 2011. The Orleans Audubon Society is currently involved in several local, bird-related conservation projects, including the re-establishment of a nonmigratory population of Whooping Cranes to Louisiana, organizing and conducting Breeding Bird Surveys throughout the state, and improving our bird sanctuaries. Thank you once again for your donation and for supporting bird conservation within Louisiana."

## CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY AND EBIRD.ORG

Are you already visiting [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) and contributing to the world-wide trove of information about our favorite species? If not, you are in for a treat. Here is an example of what you can find there now:

*September 26, 2011*



eBird has always specialized in showing bird sightings with state-of-the-art maps. As mapping services have improved, eBird has continually evolved to better serve this information. Our latest revision to the "[Range and point maps](#)" allows you to view global maps for any species or subspecies, refine the data to a specific season or date range, and then drill down to the individual sightings that make up the map. [Read on](#) for a full summary of the new functionality.

Click on the Cornell icon on ebird to see the myriad of resources available from this American university. Regular publications that you can receive by mail include the always beautiful *Living Bird* magazine and the quarterly *BirdScope*. Bird articles in the Summer 2011 issue of *BirdScope* covered such diverse areas as Queensland, Australia; the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, Cuba and South America's Atlantic Forest. Visit [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu) to learn more.

## **Western researchers discover migratory birds burn protein as in-flight water source** (from the website of the University of Western Ontario, Canada)

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Researchers from The University of Western Ontario have discovered that migratory songbirds burn their own muscles and organs to provide a water source during long, non-stop flights, which sometimes cover distances in the thousands of kilometres.

The new findings, made by doctoral candidate Alexander Gerson and Dr. Christopher Guglielmo from Western's Department of Biology and Advanced Facility for Avian Research (AFAR), were published today in the world's leading outlet for scientific news, *Science*. [and in our local newspaper, says Pres. Steve]

At AFAR, the world's first-ever hypobaric climatic wind tunnel for bird flight, researchers like Gerson and Guglielmo now have a previously unattainable opportunity to study the physiology and aerodynamics of birds in flight. For this study, the total fat and total lean mass of a bird was measured in a Quantitative Magnetic Resonance (QMR) machine immediately before and after flights under either humid or dry desert-like conditions – sometimes lasting five hours. This innovative non-invasive method gave Gerson and Guglielmo their revolutionary results.

“For years, scientists have studied stop-over areas and resting spots during migration but actually knowing what birds do in flight and being able to study their physiology has always proven tricky, for obvious reasons. But now at AFAR this type of investigation is a possibility,” says Gerson, who served as lead investigator on the paper titled, “Flight at Low Ambient Humidity Increases Protein Catabolism in Migratory Birds”. Guglielmo says the ultimate question biologists have regarding flight is how birds evolved to overcome environmental challenges, one of those challenges being water loss. “We’ve shown that conditions in the atmosphere actually affect fuel metabolism and water balance during flight. How this happens mechanistically, and what happens at simulated altitude remain questions for our future work”.

“These animals are exercising extremely hard when they are flying and they are breathing a lot. If you have ever been running or biking on a hot day, you know the first thing that makes you stop is you run out of water. And these birds can’t stop,” explains Gerson. “So they have evolved this mechanism, which we show in our paper, where they actually burn their muscles and their organs because they are a good source of water. And in the process, they release a lot of water. So in essence, that process becomes the water source.”

For images, please visit <http://communications.uwo.ca/afar/>

## At the Booth . . .



Member Joan Collignon (left) shares birding information and signs up a new member at the booth in New Orleans. We are grateful to the members who worked in the booth during the convention!

They included: Joan Collignon, John & Shirley Clutton, Elena LaBorde-Bishop, Helen & Lon Penna, Sharon Jakobi and Steve & Susan Leonard.

Working the booth is great fun, allowing members to meet and chat and to inform other Rotarians about what we do as a fellowship. Because of our beautiful bird posters,

our booth is always a hit with convention-goers. John and Shirley Clutton (right) explain our Fellowship to fellow Rotarians. John and Shirley hosted our post-convention day trip in England in 2009.

**REMEMBER: STEVE WILL NOT REQUEST A BOOTH FOR US IN BANGKOK UNLESS SEVERAL MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO WORK. PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN OR STEVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2012 IF YOU CAN HELP.**

Booth hours will begin on Saturday, May 5, and continue daily through Wednesday, May 9.



**For a Slow-Motion Ride**, check out this URL of a Eurasian Eagle Owl coming in for a landing: [www.dogwork.com/owfo8/](http://www.dogwork.com/owfo8/)

**ANNUAL FIELD TRIP**  
**THURSDAY, May 10, 2012**  
**BANGKOK, THAILAND**  
**DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON THE WEBSITE AND AT THE CONVENTION**  
**DON'T FORGET TO PLAN YOUR STAY ACCORDINGLY!!!**

***A Hearty IFBR Welcome to the following new members who joined in New Orleans:***

Jane and Louis Anders, Oakdale, Louisiana, USA  
 Stuart Barr, Peace River, Alberta, Canada  
 Susan Burwell, Loudonville, Ohio, USA  
 Krista Carter, Gotha, Florida, USA  
 Victoria Chen, Pebble Beach, California  
 Ann Fuge, Clintonville, Wisconsin, USA  
 Jerry and Brenda Jones, Garner, North Carolina, USA  
 Lani Miller, Quito, Ecuador  
 Thomas and KJ Page, Hayward, California, USA  
 Forrest Priddy, Arlington, Tennessee, USA  
 Diane Shafer, Williamson, West Virginia, USA  
 Mike and Judy Slawny, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA  
 Peter John Swain, Alstonville, New South Wales, Australia  
 Carol Urban, Chichester, New York, USA  
 Sparky and Cathy Welles, Ponchatoula, Louisiana, USA  
 Suzanne Zbinden, Organgeville, Ontario, Canada

Thanks also to those continuing members who paid dues and/or updated their information with us. If you have not done either, please complete the form below and remit with check, if applicable:

**TIME TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

**If you did not pay your dues at the 2011 International Convention, please do so by completing this form and remitting your dues as noted.**

**The International Fellowship of Birdwatching Rotarians**

Please **PRINT** clearly:

Last or Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with a check to cover the **annual dues of \$15 US—or \$60 for 5 years (1 yr. free!)**—to:

Steve Leonard  
 IFBR President  
 15251 Charbono St.  
 Fishers, Indiana 46037 USA