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LAPB 2014 Fall Symposium Awards

LAPB/LA Chapter TWS met August 28-29 in Baton Rouge, 85 people attended. Publication awards were given in the Popular, Basic Research, General Conservation, and Wildlife categories.


Rebecca Howard, Thomas Michot and their colleagues received top prize in the General Conservation Category for their publication “Effects of disturbance associated with seismic exploration for oil and gas reserves in coastal Marshes” published in Environmental Management, 2014.

In the Wildlife Category Sammy King and B.A. Pickens earned first place for their publication “Multiscale habitat selection of wetland birds in the northern gulf coast” published in Estuaries and Coasts, 2014.

Eleven students presented their research and Ashlee Minor (Nicholls State University) received first place in the oral presentation contest for her presentation “Forested freshwater wetland responses to secondarily treated municipal effluent discharge”.

Nickolas Smith (LSU) received first place in the poster contest for his poster “Morphometric sex determination of bald eagles from Louisiana”.

1st Place Student Oral Presentation Award Winner, Ashlee Minor (Nicholls State University).
LAPB / LA Chapter TWS Scholarship fund receives generous donation

Dr. James Dickson, Frank Merritt Professor of Forestry and Wildlife Management Coordinator at Louisiana Tech University, donated $1,500 to help fund the LAPB scholarship into the future. The money was surplus proceeds from past ArkLaMiss Wildlife Symposia held at Louisiana Tech. LAPB leaders and members have helped organize, contributed presentations, and participated in those symposia, and Dr. Dickson felt the LAPB scholarship program would be an excellent use of these funds. A sincere thank you to Dr. Dickson for this generous donation to a very worthy cause!

2013-14 Recipient of the LAPB / LA Chapter TWS Scholarship

My name is Garrett Wilkerson, as an undergraduate student majoring in Biology at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) I was awarded the LAPB/LA Chapter of TWS Scholarship for 2013-2014. My goal is to become a Pilot/Biologist, so I wished to spend the summer working with ducks to gain experience with waterfowl and their habitats. As a result of having this prestigious scholarship on my resume, I had the great fortune of being selected to travel to Alberta, Canada, and Saskatchewan, Canada to band waterfowl with the USFWS as part of the Western Canada Cooperative Waterfowl Banding Program in August 2014. I was on a crew with Jim Bredy (USFWS Pilot/Biologist) and Donna Anderson (USFWS Ecological Services), we were stationed in western Saskatchewan in a transition zone between shortgrass and tallgrass prairie. Donna and I also traveled to a location just outside of Saskatoon, SK to band ducks with USFWS Pilot/Biologists Phil Thorpe and Mark Koneff. These areas were unlike anywhere else I have ever seen with their unmatched views, and the landscape and climate were nicer than I had imagined. Before banding could begin, we had to bait all of our sites with wheat or barley and swim-in traps had to be erected. Once we had everything in place and the traps ready, the excitement began. Our crew captured a diversity of species of dabbling ducks, including Blue-winged Teal (Anas discors), Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos), Northern Pintails (Anas acuta), and American Wigeon (Anas americana), just to name a few. The only diving ducks we captured were a brood of Redheads (Aythya americana) too small to band. We worked all day banding ducks, but the banding never grew boring, perhaps because each duck pulled from the trap had its own unique characteristics. At the end of every day we all hoped for even more ducks in our traps the following day. I lived out a dream that I’ve had from a very early age and I look forward to an opportunity to return to the area known as the “Duck Factory”. Working within the world of waterfowl management has always intrigued me, and this great month-long experience in Canada further elevated my passion for working to protect this awesome resource.
The Louisiana Tech Conclave Team traveled to Claytor Lake State Park in Virginia for the 57th Annual Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave, hosted by Virginia Tech on March 13-16. There were 15 universities competing at Conclave. Louisiana Tech finished third place in technical events and fourth place in physical events. Stephen F. Austin won the overall competition, followed by Clemson in Second and Louisiana Tech in third. Submitted by: Rodney McKay

The Wildlife Club / Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Louisiana Tech enjoyed a year with new activities and speakers. During the year, members of the club participated in 8 different events and meetings with a focus on various opportunities for careers and community service: Louisiana Hunters for Heroes, Southern Campus Clean-up Day, Louisiana Tech Legacy Day, Louisiana Trappers Association, Xtreme Whitetails, Templin Forestry. Club members also participated with the many opportunities that the Forestry Club provided throughout the year. Submitted by: Rodney McKay
LDWF biologists are participating in cutting-edge research in which American woodcock are outfitted with satellite transmitters (PTTs). These solar-powered PTTs are small enough to fit on a woodcock’s back during migration and powerful enough to transmit multiple locations to the ARGOS satellite network.

The location data from this project will be used to document timing of migration initiation, rate of migration, stopover length, routes taken, and final destination for both spring and fall migration. These data can then be used to identify priority areas to focus habitat management and conservation efforts for woodcock along migration routes.

This research is being conducted by USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and the USFWS. In addition to LDWF, other cooperators providing assistance and funding are the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society (RGS and AWS), Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, The Glassen Foundation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Arkansas, and Woodcock Limited.

For more information and to follow the American woodcock migration live, go to: http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/woodcockmigration...

For more information on American woodcock life history, go to: http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/american-woodcock-2
Who We Are

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists is a diverse group of natural resource specialists including, but not limited to, foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, wetland scientists, fisheries biologists, and students who are dedicated to the economically sound and science-based protection, management, and use of Louisiana's natural resources through peer-reviewed research, mentoring, ecologically sound habitat management, and informed public policy.

We’re On The Web!!!
www.labioologists.org

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