

2015 Barataria Winter Bird Count Summary for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and
Preserve- Barataria Unit

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The Gulf Network Inventory and Monitoring (GULN) Bird Monitoring Protocol for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JELA) calls for a single-day winter bird survey at the Barataria Preserve (BARA) each year, using methods similar to those used in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). CBCs are 24hr long (usually daylight hours), and are conducted within 15mi radius circles between 14 December and 5 January. However, the CBC circle centered on BARA is divided by several large bodies of water that make conducting a CBC extremely challenging. In addition to the logistical problems that the landscape presents, there also are three CBC circles that surround the park, and there is a perennial shortage of volunteers for CBCs, in general.

Because a traditional CBC centered on BARA is too challenging to conduct, JELA Staff and volunteers conducted a half-day winter bird count on 21 February 2015, from 0800am to 1230pm. All birds seen and heard on trails within the Preserve were identified and counted. The protocol differed from the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count Protocol in that the survey area was limited to the Preserve Boundaries, and the time was limited to a half-day. The date of the survey was almost a full month later than in previous years due to conflicts with tree planting efforts and other events.

Eight volunteers and one staff member participated in a survey of the trails and V-Levee; five were experienced birders, three of whom led groups of 1-3 novices. Areas surveyed in 2015 included: Visitors Center Trail, Palmetto Trail, Bayou Coquille/Marsh Overlook Trails, Plantation Trail Loops A and B, Ring Levee Trail, Wood Duck Trail, Christmas Road, Education Center Trail, and Old Barataria Trail. Twin Canals Trail, and the V-Levee west of Highway 45, and most of the V-levee between Highway 45 and Highway 3134 were not surveyed in 2015. Surveys of marsh birds were not conducted by airboat in 2015 due to lack of skilled volunteers.

All data, except the Christmas Road checklist, were entered into eBird, but volunteers did not identify the trails they surveyed. Comparisons to previous years were not compiled due to the late date of the 2015 count.

Total number of bird species positively identified: 57

Number of individual birds observed: 1,702

Number of eBird checklists submitted: 9 (Visitors Center, Palmetto, Couquille/Marsh Overlook Plantation Loop A, Plantation Loop B, Ring Levee, Wood Duck, Old Barataria, Education Center; Christmas Road checklist not reported in eBird)

Table 1) 2015 Barataria Preserve Winter Bird Count Species Totals

Species	Total for Day	# of lists out of 10
American Crow	43	8
American Goldfinch	41	5
American Pipit	2	2
American Robin	84	8
Bald Eagle	6	4
Barred Owl	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	1
Black Vulture	50	9
Black-and-white Warbler	1	1
Blue Jay	7	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	18	6
Blue-headed Vireo	8	4
Boat-tailed Grackle	1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1
Carolina Chickadee	63	9
Carolina Wren	67	8
Common Gallinule	3	1
Common Grackle	3	2
Common Yellowthroat	6	4
Double-crested Cormorant	5	1
Downy Woodpecker	18	8
Eastern Phoebe	12	8
Gray Catbird	2	2
Great Blue Heron	1	1
Great Egret	5	4
Great Horned Owl	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	9	5
House Wren	2	2
Killdeer	1	1
Little Blue Heron	2	2
Mourning Dove	5	2
Northern Cardinal	81	10
Northern Flicker	4	4
Northern Mockingbird	1	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	8	6

passerine sp.	4	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker	21	8
Pine Warbler	1	1
Purple Finch	7	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	4
Red-winged Blackbird	228	6
Ring-billed Gull	1	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	52	7
Rusty Blackbird	2	1
Savannah Sparrow	3	1
Swamp Sparrow	14	4
Tree Swallow	150	1
Tufted Titmouse	36	9
Turkey Vulture	122	10
Unknown	1	1
White Ibis	197	4
White-eyed Vireo	2	2
White-throated Sparrow	2	1
Winter Wren	1	1
Wood Duck	3	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	233	8
Grand Total	57 species	1702 individuals