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*Promised Land Scenic Byway:
Atchafalaya Loop*

888-565-5939
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Bayou Birds

America's
Wetland
Birding Trail
On Louisiana's
Great Gulf Coast





ATCHAFALAYA LOOP

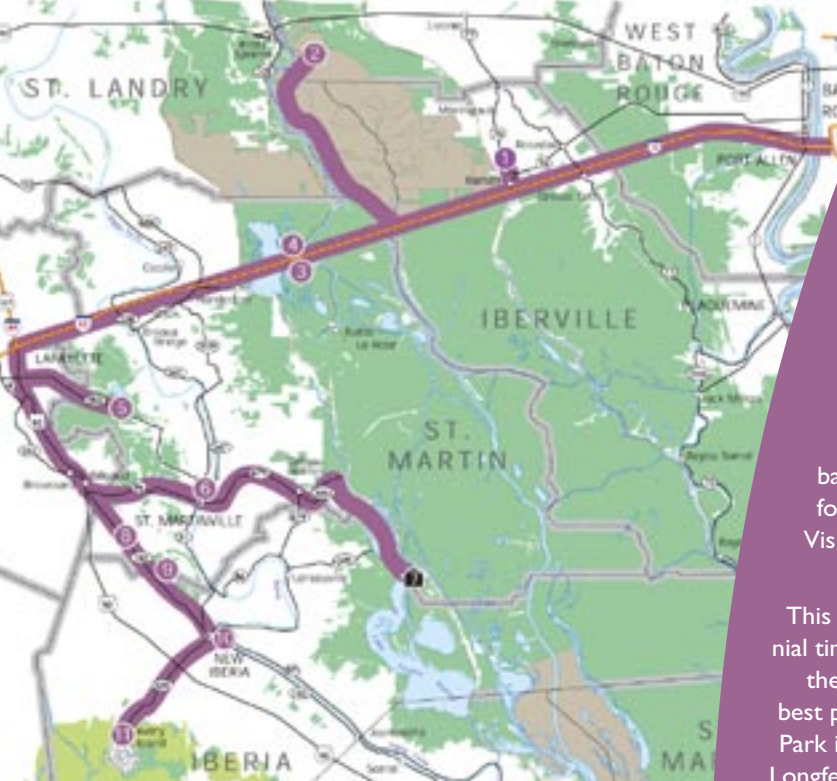
Stretching 100 miles in length and averaging 15 miles in width, Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin is the largest river-swamp in North America. This massive maze of rivers, bayous, lakes, swamps, marshes, and bottomland hardwood forests is ringed by a 400+-mile levee and roadway system. Visitors soon discover that bird life is as abundant along the levee/roadway system as it is in the interior of the basin.

This loop also moves through the Bayou Teche which in colonial times served as a major artery for conducting settlers into the "Cajun Country" of south-central Louisiana. One of the best places to view this storied waterway is at Evangeline Oak Park in St. Martinville, which contains the tree made famous in Longfellow's epic poem, "Evangeline," as well as both Cajun and Creole museums.

This loop features some of the most expansive bottomland hardwood systems remaining in all of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The best examples can be found at the Indian Bayou natural area, the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area Complex, and the Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, all located between US 190 to the north and I 10 to the south. Most of the woodlands are dominated by the live oak, a thick-trunked, evergreen species which is capable of harboring lots of songbirds during any season. Enjoy these massive trees and the birds especially at New Iberia City Park as well as the Main Street Historic District which is a live oak-studded commercial and arts district located in the center New Iberia.

Lake Fausse Pointe State Park offers outstanding birding in its own right. For the more intrepid birder, seek out the South Farm Unit of the Sherburne WMA complex, where hiking-only birding is available. Be sure to stop in at the Atchafalaya Welcome Center at Butte Larose for comprehensive interpretive information.

In terms of sheer "bird biomass," the lakes and impoundments featured along this loop are known for attracting huge numbers of wading birds, waterfowl, and others. Take the time to visit places like Lake Martin, Spanish Lake, and the crawfish impoundments at the University of Louisiana's Cade Research Farm.



South Farm Unit, Sherburne Complex WMA

Site 5-1



Site access: Free, Daily, Wild Louisiana Stamp required
GPS coordinates: N 30.41619; W 91.52451

Site contact: Sherburne Complex Information;
337-948-0255

Website: www.wlf.state.la.us

Directions: From Baton Rouge, go west on I 10 approximately 20 miles to Exit 135 in Ramah. Drive west 1.0 mile to the Atchafalaya Basin East Protection Levee. Go north along the East Protection Levee 1.5 miles. Cross the cattleguard and go left (west) on the road over the levee into the South Farm Unit parking area.

Description: The more than 1700-acre South Farm Unit, a cooperative wetland restoration project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Exxon, provides the best opportunities for shorebird and waterfowl watching in the entire Atchafalaya Basin region. Cars and trucks are not allowed on the property; access is by ATV, bicycle, or foot only. The best water-birding spots begin at the center of the unit and extend along several 0.5-1.0-mile trails.

From November through early March, check the flooded areas for Wood Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, and American Wigeon. Mottled Duck, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater and Lesser scaup, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye are less common, but possible in winter.

During winter and migration periods, check wet portions of the unit for Black-necked Stilt, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Look in the shallow-water/mudflat niches for Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated, Western, Least, Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers, Dunlin, and Wilson's Snipe. American Woodcocks are rare but can be seen flying at dawn and dusk.

Additional waterbirds include Anhinga, Double-crested Cormorant (winter), American White Pelican, heron, egret, ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork (summer), Sora, and American Coot. Wading birds are most numerous in July when impoundments are dewatered.

The associated woodlands and grassy/brushy areas along the trail edges host Swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Loggerhead Shrike, Carolina Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo and Painted Bunting, and Orchard Oriole. In winter, numerous nearctic migrants such as Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, and Field, Swamp, Song, and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows join the mix.

Sherburne Complex WMA

Site 5-2



Site access: Free, Daily, Wild Louisiana Stamp required
GPS coordinates: N 30.51621; W 91.71633

Site contact: Sherburne Complex Information;
337-948-0255

Website: www.wlf.state.la.us

Directions: From Baton Rouge, go west on I 10 for 28.25 miles to Exit 127/ Whiskey Bay. Go right (north) on LA 975 into the complex which follows the Atchafalaya River northward for the next 16.5 miles. The best sites include 1) "The Watering Hole" on the LA 975 roadside, 0.2 miles north of I 10, 2) Happytown Road at its intersection with LA 975 about 5.0 miles north of I 10, and 3) "Nature Trail" Road which intersects LA 975 approximately 14.0 miles north of I 10 (about 0.5 miles north of Sherburne WMA Headquarters).

Description: "The Sherburne Complex" is a 44,000-acre bottomland hardwood forest/swamp complex comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 17,000-acre, Bayou des Ourses Natural Area, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's 15,220-acre Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries' 11,700-acre Sherburne Wildlife Management Area.

Although birding opportunities are spectacular year round, the highlight is the breeding situation with the Swallow-tailed Kite. While a common breeder here, this raptor is a species of special concern throughout its limited breeding range in selected baldcypress swamps within the southeastern U.S. coastal zone.

Other raptors with substantial breeding presence include Mississippi Kite, and Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks. The Sherburne Complex also hosts some of North America's highest breeding densities of species such as White-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo and Painted buntings, and Eastern Towhee. Other species with substantial breeding presence include Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Swainson's and Kentucky warblers, Summer Tanager, and Orchard Oriole.

Fall migration brings outstanding numbers of Empidonax flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, and miscellaneous warblers as they make their journey toward the coast.



America's WETLAND is the wintering home to millions of migratory waterfowl and songbirds.



Atchafalaya Welcome Center, Butte La Rose

Site 5-3



Site access: Free

Site contact: Welcome Center; 337-228-1094

GPS coordinates: N 30.34070; W 91.72287

Directions: From the I 110 Exit on I 10 in Baton Rouge, go west on I 10 for 32.8 miles to Butte LaRose Exit 121. Follow the exit ramp beneath the freeway to the Welcome Center.

Description: The newest State Welcome Center opened in June 2004. This 5,856-square foot center resembles a south Louisiana home, with exhibit areas featuring local art and culture. The visual displays and featured film were created to raise public awareness about the endangered Basin and its inhabitants. Located on the west bank of the “Old” Atchafalaya River and surrounded by dense riparian forest, the welcome center is perfect for observing large birds flying over the site at all times of day. Despite road noise songbirds are easy to find in the fringing forest

The river’s boat launch and overlook offers an excellent observation post to view the spectacular year round movement of swallows. Purple Martin, Barn, and Cliff swallows are regular Atchafalaya Basin nesting species, joined during spring and fall migration by Tree, Northern Rough-winged, and Bank swallows for a veritable “Swallow Festival.”

Anhinga and White Ibis, along with at least 9 species of herons and egrets, are common to abundant and readily observed flying over the area throughout the day during spring and summer. By fall and winter, when wading bird diversity has dropped, Great, Snowy and Cattle egrets, along with Great Blue Heron and White Ibis can be expected on a daily basis. Also, look for American White Pelican and Double-crested Cormorants, Laughing and Ring-billed gulls and Caspian and Forster’s terns in winter. Waterfowl including Wood Duck, Gadwall, Mallard, and Lesser Scaup commonly flyover in winter.

In spring and summer, common woodland species within the riparian/bottomland hardwood forests surrounding the center are Barred Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated woodpeckers, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, American and Fish crows, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, along with Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers. Woodland edge/thicket species such as Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Indigo and Painted buntings are also common at the forest and river interface.

Indian Bayou Area

Site 5-4



Site access: Free

Site Contact: Information; 337-585-0853

GPS coordinates: N 30.34997; W 91.72379

Website: www.mvn.usace.army.mil

Directions: From Baton Rouge, go west on I 10 for 32.8 miles to Butte La Rose Exit 121. Follow the exit ramp down and go left (north) onto LA 105. The Visitor’s Center is located 0.25 miles south of I 10. Indian Bayou Natural Area extends northward along either side of the road for the next 7 miles.

Description: Owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indian Bayou Area is comprised of 28,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, and wet meadows. Birding is outstanding here on a year round basis, and is only enhanced by numerous improved parking areas and trails.

The woodlands are treed primarily with eastern cottonwood, American sycamore, hackberry, American elm, black willow, and water oak. Numerous areas of woodland edges and gaps are festooned with vine thickets which host White-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Orchard Oriole. During the winter months, these same vine thickets can hold rare species such as Baltimore Oriole.

Between March and August, Indian Bayou is best known for its high densities of songbird species such as White-eyed and Red-eyed vireos, Indigo and Painting buntings, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Prothonotary, Hooded, Kentucky, and Swainson’s warblers. In fact, Indian Bayou may host the highest concentration of breeding Swainson’s Warbler anywhere! During spring and summer expect to see Swallow-tailed Kite.

The wading bird “commuter phenomenon” is an especially-prominent feature of the Indian Bayou avifauna. Thousands of herons, egrets, and allies constantly cross the Atchafalaya Basin West Protection Levee System on a daily basis during breeding and migration seasons. Included within this group are Anhinga, Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored and Green herons, along with Great, Snowy, Cattle egrets, White Ibis, Wood Stork, and others. This phenomenon is at its most spectacular during the early morning and late evening hours.



Lake Martin (Lake la Pointe)–Cypress Island Preserve

Site 5–5



Site access: Free

GPS coordinates: N 30.20373;
W 91.90114

Site contact: The Nature Conservancy; 225-338-1040
St. Martin Parish Tourist Commission; 888-565-5939

Website: www.cajuncountry.org

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.75 miles to Willow Street. Turn left (east) onto Willow Street and go 1.5 miles east to Teurlings Drive. Turn right (south) and go 0.5 mile to Carmel Drive/ LA 94. Go left (east) and drive 1.5 miles to Lake Martin Road/LA 353. Go right (south) 5.0 miles to the Lake Martin entrance on the left.

Description: Lake Martin, the crown jewel of The Nature Conservancy's 9,500-acre Cypress Island Preserve, annually hosts about 20,000 nesting pairs of wading birds in its cypress-tupelo gum swamp rookery. Beginning as early as late January or early February Great Egrets begin their courtship and nest-building rituals in the rookery located at the southwestern edge of the lake. As spring gets into full gear, additional breeding pairs of Anhinga, Green Heron, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, and White Ibis appear.

In spring, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler and White-eyed and Red-eyed vireos are present around the lake. The hiking trail is closed from late spring to early fall because alligators nest on the trail itself. Look for breeding Yellow-throated Warblers in the tops of the largest baldcypress trees, best done with spotting scopes.

The winter months feature Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Brown Creeper, House and Winter wrens, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Hermit Thrush, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Winter is the best time to search for rarities such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, and Black-headed Grosbeak along the hiking trail.

Lake Martin hosts a substantial population of some of Louisiana's largest American Alligators. During the onset of breeding season (March-April), bull alligators over 10 feet long are commonly seen along the roadside bordering the southern edge of the lake.

Evangeline Oak Park

Site 5–6



Site access: Free, Daily

GPS coordinates: N 30.12202; W 91.82756

Site contact: St. Martinville Tourist Information Center;
337-394-2233 **Website:** www.cityofsaintmartinville.com

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90 for 8.8 to LA 96. Turn left and go east on LA 96 for 7.5 miles to Evangeline Blvd. Continue straight (east) for 2 more blocks to the park.

Description: As the name implies, Evangeline Oak Park houses (as the legend goes) the live oak made famous by Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline." Moreover, this site also contains the Museum of the Acadian Memorial, the African American Museum, a native plant garden, and a lovely boardwalk bordering Bayou Teche. In addition, this site has amenities such as restrooms, water fountains, and informational brochures located here and at the tourist center across the street. This entire complex is contained within the city of St. Martinville, one of the oldest settlements in Louisiana.

Year round bird life here includes Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and others. Look for the following occasionally flying by over adjacent Bayou Teche: Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, and other wading birds. During migration months (March-May and August-October) look for neotropical migrant songbirds in the baldcypress and live oak trees on the site.

Cultural/Historical Attractions

TABASCO® PEPPER SAUCE FACTORY

Avery Island, one of five salt dome islands rising above the Louisiana Gulf coast, is the home of world-famous TABASCO® Sauce. For 128 years, the McIlhenny family has used a secret recipe to make Tabasco Pepper Sauce on this tiny island in the bayous. Visitors can watch a short film on TABASCO history, take a tour of the factory (bottling and packing operations only), see capsicum pepper plants in the fields, and sample new products like garlic and jalapeno pepper sauces. For location, hours, admission and country store information call 337-373-6129 or visit www.tabasco.com.

AMERICA'S WETLAND BIRDING TRAIL





Lake Fausse Point State Park

Site 5-7



Site access: Fee

GPS coordinates: N 30.06470; W 91.60758

Site contact: Park Information; 337-229-4764 or 888-677-7200

Website: www.crt.state.la.us/crt/parks/lakefaus/lakefaus.htm

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90 for 8.8 miles to the Cade/ St. Martinville Exit. Turn left (south) onto LA 182, then make an immediate left (east) onto LA 96. Drive east 7.5 miles to St. Martinville. Turn left (north) at the second stop light (LA 31), then right (east) at the next stop light (LA 96). Drive 3.5 miles, turn right (south) onto LA 679, and go 4.3 miles to Coteau Holmes. Go left (east) onto LA 3083 for 4.1 miles to the Atchafalaya Basin west containment levee. Turn right (south) onto Levee Road and drive 8.0 miles to the park on the right.

Description: First occupied by Chitimacha Indians, then French/ Acadian/ Spanish colonial farmers and trappers, the 6,000-acre Lake Fausse Pointe area is as rich in cultural heritage as it is in natural heritage. Now operated by the State of Louisiana, Lake Fausse Point State Park boasts a wonderful array of amenities.

Species to look for include large water-oriented birds such as herons, egrets, and allies, as well as Osprey and Bald Eagle (winter), Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull (spring/fall/winter), Caspian Tern, and Forster's Tern.

Numerous acres of mature bottomland hardwood forest hold the high concentrations of neotropical songbirds. Breeding neotropical species include Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireos, Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers, and Summer Tanager. Wooded areas and edges host various year round species such as Barred Owl, Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, Common Yellowthroat, and Northern Cardinal. One of the most accessible areas for finding woodland birds is the quiet quarter-mile road connecting the Interpretive Center and the Conference Center.

ULA at Lafayette Model Sustainable Agricultural Center

Site 5-8



Site access: Free, Daily

GPS coordinates: N 30.09362; W 91.86603

Site contact: Director, Crawfish Research Center; 337-394-7508 / Farm Manager; 337-394-5978

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90 for 8.0 miles to the Cade/ LA 182 Exit. Merge onto LA 182 and follow it south-east 3.7 miles to LA 92. Turn left (north-east) and go 2.4 miles to WJ Bernard Rd. Turn right and go (south) 1.0 mile to the Crawfish Research Center. If LA 92 is blocked, continue on LA 182 about 1.75 miles to Lady of the Lake Road. Turn left (east) and proceed about 2.0 miles to WJ Bernard Rd. Go about 1.0 mile to Procamburus Rd. and the Crawfish Research Center. If LA 92 is blocked, continue on LA 182 about 1.75 miles to Lady of the Lake Road. Turn left (east) and proceed about 2.0 miles to WJ Bernard Rd. Go about 1.0 mile to Procamburus Rd. and the Crawfish Research Center

Description: This complex contains approximately 45 acres of moist-soil agricultural fields composed of crawfish ponds along with 15 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and agricultural hedgerows and 20 acres of old field succession grasslands. Informational kiosk includes bird list and guide to Leopold Lane Ag Wetland Extension walking trail.

In summer, numerous wading birds forage in the crawfish ponds. Look for Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue, Tricolored and Green herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White and White-faced ibises, Roseate Spoonbill, and Wood Stork – many numerous when crawfish ponds drained in June and July. Within the hedgerows and wood lots, resident and neotropical breeding songbirds include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat, and Indigo and Painted buntings.

Spring and fall migration bring Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpiper. At this time, the hedgerows and woodlands host numerous migrant songbirds including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Tennessee, and Hooded warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. Rarities have included Groove-billed Ani and Western and Scissor-tailed flycatchers.



In winter the ponds host ducks such as Wood Duck, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Duck, seabirds such as Laughing and Ring-billed gulls, and Forster's Tern, and Neotropic and Double-crested cormorants. Look for songbirds such as Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, House, Sedge and Marsh wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, American Pipit, and numerous sparrows with Savannah, Swamp, Song, and White-throated sparrows being common and Field, Vesper, LeConte's, Fox, and White-crowned sparrows regularly found.

Spanish Lake

Site 5-9



Site access: Fee, Daily

Site contact: Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau;

GPS coordinates: N 30.04440; W 91.86274 **888-942-3742** **Website:** www.iberiatravel.com

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103A in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue east on US 90 for 8.0 miles and take the Cade LA 182/St. Martinville LA 96 Exit. Follow LA 182 south 7.5 miles to the Spanish Lake entrance on the left (east) side of the road.

Description: At 1240 acres, Spanish Lake is a substantial body of water, located only 4 miles northwest of New Iberia and surrounded by bottomland hardwood forests. Over the years, 240 species of birds have been recorded at this site.

A 5-mile horseshoe-shaped limestone road borders the lake, offering the option to drive or walk around it. Also, 5 wheelchair-accessible fishing pier/scenic overlook structures are located at intervals around the lake.

A dense strip of black willow dominated vegetation just inside the eastern levee of the lake hosts roosting wading birds, including Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue and Green herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Roseate Spoonbill.

During the fall and winter months, Laughing and Ring-billed gulls and Forster's Terns commonly visit the lake. More occasional visitors include Bonaparte's Gull, along with Least and Black terns. Songbirds found in the bottomland hardwood forests outside the levee of Spanish Lake include American Redstart, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-and-white, and Prothonotary warblers, as well as Indigo Bunting and Orchard Oriole.

During the summer months look for Viceroy and Red-spotted Purple butterflies and dragonflies such as Great Blue Skimmer and Halloween Pennant.

New Iberia City Park

Site 5-10



Site access: Free, Daily

Site contact: Park Information; 337-369-2337

GPS coordinates: N 30.00595; W 91.81013

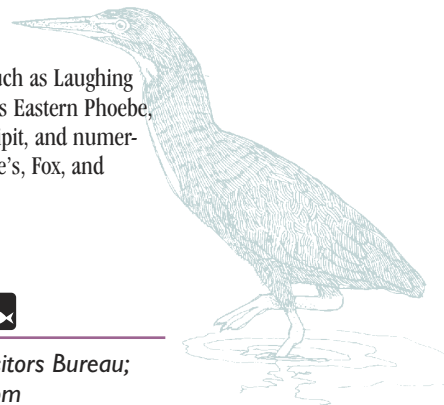
Website: www.cityofnewiberia.com; www.iberiatravel.com

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90 for 21.520.0 miles to the Lewis St. Hwy 14 Exit in New Iberia. Go left (north) on Hwy 14 for 3.0 miles, to Hwy 182E. Go right on Hwy 182 for 0.8 miles. Go left on Lewis St. for 0.4 miles until you reach Parkview Avenue. Go left on Parkview Avenue for 0.75 miles to the park on the left.

Description: At 45 acres in size, New Iberia City Park represents a sizeable block of mature woodland amidst urban New Iberia. It is located on the banks of Bayou Teche, a stream which serves as a corridor for many species of migratory raptors and songbirds.

The park is dominated by large live oaks, water oaks, cherrybark oaks, American sycamores, sweet gums, and other canopy-class bottomland hardwood trees. Birds such as Red-bellied, Downy and Red-headed woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Northern Mockingbirds, and even Barred Owls utilize the park on a year round basis. During migration periods, any number of warbler, vireo, tanager, and oriole species native to the eastern U.S. might show up, depending upon weather conditions. Note: wet weather is often best for temporarily retarding or arresting the migrational process for varying periods of time.

Interesting winter birds include Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, and American Goldfinch.





Jungle Gardens/Avery Island

Site 5-I I



Site access: Fee, Daily

Site contact: The Jungle Gardens of Avery Island;

GPS coordinates: N 29.91211; W 91.90619

337-369-6243 **Website:** www.iberiatravel.com

Directions: From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103A in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90 for 21.3 miles. Make a u-turn at Curtis Ln. onto US 90W and go 0.1 miles. Take the LA 329 ramp toward Avery Island for 0.3 miles. Turn left onto LA 329S/ Allen Rd. Continue to follow LA 329S for 6.4 miles to Avery Island/Jungle Gardens.

Description: Avery Island is a 42,240 feet salt mountain, all but 150 feet of which lay buried beneath the marshes of coastal south-central Louisiana. It is the most famous of south Louisiana's "extruded" salt-domes which are so prominent that they are called "islands" because of the way they so dramatically breach the flat landscapes surrounding them.

Home to the internationally famous Tabasco pepper sauce manufacturing facility, 2,500-acre Avery Island also possesses a 250-acre landscaped site known as "Jungle Gardens," a site which contains hundreds of varieties of Oriental camellias, azaleas, and bamboo, as well as other curious plants from around the world.

Jungle Gardens is the most accessible portion of the island for birders. The focal point of the gardens is "Bird City," a large artificial lake from which E. A. McIlhenny initiated one of the first bird conservation programs to restore the near irrecoverable low numbers of Snowy Egrets. To this day, the nesting platforms at Bird City provide nesting substrate for hundreds of pairs of Great, Snowy, and Cattle egrets each spring. While visiting Bird City, take advantage of the 4 miles of driving/ walking trails laid out through Jungle Gardens. Look especially for neotropical migrant songbirds in the oaks during the spring and fall months.



Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Chambers of Commerce

St. Martin Parish Tourist Commission
P.O. Box 9
St. Martinsville, LA 70582
Phone: 337-394-2200
Toll Free Consumer: 888-565-5939

St. Martinsville Tourist Information Center
215 Evangeline Blvd.
St. Martinsville, LA 70582
Phone: 337-394-2233
Fax: 337-394-2257
www.LouisianaTravel.com/st_martinsville

Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thwy.
Lafayette, LA 70501
Phone: 337-232-3737
Toll Free Consumer: 800-346-1958
www.lafayettettravel.com

Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau
2513 Hwy 14
New Iberia, LA 70560
Phone: 337-365-1540
Toll Free Consumer: 888-942-3742
www.iberiaparish.com

Iberville Parish Tourist Commission
59050 Meriam St.
Plaquemine, LA 70764
Phone: 225-687-5190
Fax: 225-687-5250
www.parish.iberville.la.us

St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission
PO Box 1415
Opelousas, LA 70571-1415
Phone: 337-948-8004
Toll Free Consumer: 877-948-8004
www.cajuntravel.com

Atchafalaya Welcome Center
1934 Atchafalaya River Highway
Breux Bridge, LA 70517
Phone 337-228-1094

Promised Land Scenic Byway

Rooted in Cajun history, this scenic byway's name dates back to the 1760s when exiled Acadians were promised fertile land by the Spanish Governor of the Louisiana territory. Today, as the Promised Land Scenic Byway moves through Henderson, New Iberia, St. Martinville and Breux Bridge, a significant portion of it borders the Henderon side of the Atchafalaya Basin, the largest undeveloped wetland in the nation. Visitors here can view magnificent waterways, wildflowers and spectacular scenery. While driving the levee road, allot enough time for a swamp tour through the basin to see various birds, alligators, deer, snakes, rabbit, squirrel and frogs. Along the drive, make sure to stop in Breux Bridge, the "Crawfish Capital of the World," as well as the various restaurants along the road which showcase authentic Creole and Cajun cuisine.