

Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration



Birders at the celebration

Project Year: 2011

Category: Birds

Status: Open

Project #: None

Location:

Barataria Basin, Grand Isle, LA

Project Partners:

Grand Isle Port Commission, Grand Isle School, Grand Isle Tourist Commission, Landry House Bed & Breakfast, Louisiana Ornithological Society, Orleans Audubon Society, Terrebonne Bird Club, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, Town of Grand Isle, and many others

Problem Addressed:

Grand Isle is Louisiana's biggest and only inhabited barrier island. It also is the only barrier island large enough to support "chenier" forests. "Chenier" is a French word meaning - live oak forest. The forests, back barrier marshes, and sandy beaches of Grand Isle are considered one of the premiere birding destinations in North America.

Problem Description:

The annual Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration has grown from a one-day event in the late 90s to a three-day event that offers Grand Isle residents and birders alike many opportunities to see and learn about birds. Additionally, this celebration provides a chance to experience the uniqueness and importance of Grand Isle's habitats and their relationship to these birds.

You can visit chenier woods (maritime forests), back barrier marshes, beaches and mudflats, and nearby islands by participating in the numerous tours offered throughout the event. Educational information addressing birds and bird management is distributed by numerous partners.

Historical tours are offered to learn more about the history of Grand Isle and informational presentations are made regarding current topics. As a result, hundreds of people now attend this annual event.

The island's forests are especially important during spring, when migrating birds encounter inclement weather as they fly northward over the Gulf of Mexico. Exhausted, birds land at the first place they see. Often, these are the forests of Grand Isle, Louisiana. A red mulberry tree with ripe fruits may be filled with a kaleidoscope of birds, including blood-red Summer Tanagers, velvety-red Scarlet Tanagers, orange Baltimore Orioles, burnt-orange Orchard Orioles, deep-blue Indigo Buntings, and multi-hued Painted Buntings. Intent on feeding and drinking, fall-out birds often seem unconcerned with the attention of birdwatchers, and allow close study.



BTNEP Nicholls State
University
P.O. Box 2663
Thibodaux LA 70310

Toll Free: (800) 259-0869
Phone: (985) 447-0868
Fax: (985) 447-0870

btnep.org