

## JOHNSON BAYOU (LA.) CBC DECEMBER 30, 2009

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The Johnson Bayou CBC was held on December 30 in exceptionally challenging conditions, with cold rain and wind that did not let up until late in the afternoon. The count circle was covered with salt water in the storm surge of Hurricane Rita in September 2005 and again in the storm surge of Hurricane Ike in 2008. Nevertheless, the habitat is showing some recovery. It will be a long, long time before the wooded cheniers are anything like their former self, but the grasses and marsh areas.

In common with many other area counts, waterfowl proved to be in low numbers. No Gadwall or American Wigeon were seen, but on the other hand, there were a few Northern Shovelers and Ring-necked Ducks, species that were absent in 2008. Also in common with the experience of nearby counts, Blue-winged Teal were plentiful.

Gull-billed Terns were seen over the marsh for the first time in recent years, and Eurasian Collared-Doves were back after being absent for three years.

A Whip-poor-will in Peveto Woods was a good find, but the lack of underbrush elsewhere had an impact, and no Brown Thrashers, no Gray Catbirds and no Carolina Chickadees were recorded.

The one really bright aspect was the finding of lots of sparrows on the Cheniers and elsewhere. Swamp Sparrows were particularly numerous.

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Greater White-fronted Goose (2); Snow Goose (80); Green-winged Teal (3); Mallard (2); Mottled Duck (11); Blue-winged Teal (117); Northern Shoveler (71); Ring-necked Duck (3); Greater Scaup (2); Lesser Scaup (29); Common Goldeneye (1); Red-breasted Merganser (12); Pied-billed Grebe (18); Neotropic Cormorant (24); Double-crested Cormorant (32); American White Pelican (6); Brown Pelican (22); Tricolored Heron (11); Little Blue Heron (8); Snowy Egret (38); Great Blue Heron (13); Great Egret (29); Green Heron (1); American Bittern (1); White Ibis (61); White-faced Ibis (65); Glossy Ibis (1); Dark Ibis Species (40); Roseate Spoonbill (30); Osprey (1); Northern Harrier (9); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Cooper's Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (15); American Kestrel (3); Merlin (1); Clapper Rail (4); King Rail (5); Common Moorhen (6); American Coot (155); Wilson's Snipe (2); Marbled Godwit (2); Greater Yellowlegs (6); Lesser Yellowlegs (1); Willet (1); Sanderling (12); Black-necked Stilt (2); Killdeer (26); Piping Plover (1); Ring-billed Gull (49); Herring Gull (14); Bonaparte's Gull (2); Laughing Gull (156); Gull-billed Tern (2); Caspian Tern (2); Royal Tern (8); Forster's Tern (2); Black skimmer (1); Eurasian Collared-Dove (10); Mourning Dove (12); White-winged Dove (1); Barn Owl (5); Great Horned Owl (2); Whip-poor-will (1); Belted Kingfisher (19); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (5); Downy Woodpecker (2); Northern Flicker (yellow shafted) (5); Eastern Phoebe (22); White-eyed Vireo (2); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Loggerhead Shrike (9); Brown Creeper (1); Cedar Waxwing (10); Hermit Thrush (4); American Robin (8); Northern Mockingbird (15);

European Starling (39); Sedge Wren (12); Marsh Wren (1); Carolina Wren (2); House Wren (14); Winter Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (23); Tree Swallow (8); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (49); Golden-crowned Kinglet (8); Orange-crowned Warbler (24); Yellow-rumped Warbler (myrtle) (42); Pine Warbler (1); Palm Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (6); Wilson's Warbler (3); Fox Sparrow (1); Song Sparrow (37); Lincoln's Sparrow (6); Swamp Sparrow (475); White-crowned Sparrow (70); White-throated Sparrow (10); Savannah Sparrow (292); Le Conte's Sparrow (1); Field Sparrow (2); Vesper Sparrow (1); Northern Cardinal (7); Baltimore Oriole (1); Red-winged Blackbird (450); Eastern Meadowlark (12); Great-tailed Grackle (123); Boat-tailed Grackle (109); Common Grackle (81); Brown-headed Cowbird (17); American Goldfinch (6); total birds seen (3292); total species seen (110); Participants Gary Kelley, John Whittle, Devon Bosler, Justin Bosler, Eric Liffman, Don Jeane, Ken Sztraky.