



10TH ANNUAL SPRING L.A.R.E. FIELD TRIP

APRIL 30, 2022

BAYOU TECHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): BRAD 'BONES' GLORIOSO, KEVIN MCDUNN, GARY MELANCON, BRIAN CAVALIER, JENNIFER PEARSON, JIM PARKER, TOM PEARSON, DA'VONNE GRIFFIN, MELISSA CEFALU, MICAH CEFALU
MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): CLIFF WATERS, KYLAN BROUSSARD, NADINE MELANCON, NATALIE WATERS, KIMBERLY BROUSSARD
FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): EVIE MELANCON, SAM MELANCON, CADE CEFALU, XAVI MCDUNN, ROBERT MENDYK, COLLIN CEFALU, DAVID CASTELLANOS

TRIP DETAILS

The group met at 9:00 a.m. at the parking area of the Franklin Unit's Nature Trail at Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge. We quickly saw some skinks, a couple of sliders and an alligator. Just a ways down the trail we saw our first of 6 Western Ribbonsnakes. After a couple of lizards and a treefrog we found a beautiful juvenile Speckled Kingsnake on the crawl on woody debris. Not long after we found a couple of racers that were feisty as usual. We later caught a juvenile racer that still had some of its juvenile pattern. We found 3 Northern Cottonmouths before we finally found one of our targets, a gorgeous Eastern Copperhead. We were able to find three watersnake species as well. The majority of attendees left at the conclusion of that trail in the early afternoon. But a subset went down to Palmetto Trail which was intolerable with mosquitos, but we did find a beautiful Northern Cottonmouth basking in our short time there along with some other common species. Lastly, we stopped at the Garden City Unit's boardwalk trail for a short stop and field trip ended in the mid-afternoon. Overall, the tenth L.A.R.E. spring field trip was a great success with 22 attendees. We detected 19 species of amphibians and reptiles, including 19 individual snakes of 8 species. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip!

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES DETECTED

BLANCHARD' CRICKET FROG	<i>ACRIS BLANCHARDI</i>	2 (CALLING)
COPE'S GRAY TREEFROG	<i>HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS</i>	(CALLING ONLY)
GREEN TREEFROG	<i>HYLA CINEREA</i>	1 (CALLING)
GULF COAST TOAD	<i>INCILIUS NEBULIFER</i>	1
GREEN FROG	<i>LITHOBATES CLAMITANS</i>	7 (CALLING)
AMERICAN ALLIGATOR	<i>ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS</i>	4
GREEN ANOLE	<i>ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS</i>	19
COMMON FIVE-LINED SKINK	<i>PLESTIODON FASCIATUS</i>	1
BROAD-HEADED SKINK	<i>PLESTIODON LATICEPS</i>	3
LITTLE BROWN SKINK	<i>SCINCELLA LATERALIS</i>	27
EASTERN COPPERHEAD	<i>AGKISTRODON CONTORTRIX</i>	1
NORTHERN COTTONMOUTH	<i>AGKISTRODON PISCIVORUS</i>	4
NORTH AMERICAN RACER	<i>COLUBER CONSTRICTOR</i>	3
SPECKLED KINGSNAKE	<i>LAMPROPELTIS HOLBROOKI</i>	1
PLAIN-BELLIED WATERSNAKE	<i>NERODIA ERYTHROGASTER</i>	2
SOUTHERN WATERSNAKE	<i>NERODIA FASCIATA</i>	1
DIAMOND-BACKED WATERSNAKE	<i>NERODIA RHOMBIFER</i>	1
WESTERN RIBBONSNAKE	<i>THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS</i>	6
POND SLIDER	<i>TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA</i>	2