

Birds of Lincoln Parish Park, and Effects of Timber Harvest and Hearing Augmentation on Bird Communities and Bird Detections

Summary-2013

Birds are important ecological components of and often are regarded as indicators of ecosystem health. Also, birds and recreational birding are important to many people, and serve as an economic entity. In this study we are documenting the bird community of Lincoln Parish Park, a designated Louisiana Wetland Birding Trail. Many birders have some hearing loss, particularly high frequency, and may not hear some birds. The second tact of this study is to assess the impact of hearing amplification on bird detection. The third aspect of the study is to assess the effects of timber harvest on bird communities. Also, this study is documenting the birds of mature pine stands, an historical habitat that has been drastically reduced in the modern landscape. Five bird count stations have been established in Lincoln Parish Park, 2 lakeside, and 3 in mature pine-hardwoods. Seven winter bird counts were completed from 24 December 2012 to 31 January 2013. Eight breeding season bird counts were completed during May 2013. At each station, birds seen within ¼ mile and all birds heard are tallied. For each survey birds are counted 5 minutes with hearing amplification and 5 minutes without amplification.

Timber harvest of the mature pine stand is pending. After harvest, another year's data will be collected. Bird count data will be compared: between seasons, between habitats, between amplified and non amplified hearing, and pre and post harvest. Also, notes will be taken on observations of birds detected at other times and wild mammals, reptiles, and amphibians detected at the Park.

Results from the study should: document the birds and other wildlife of Lincoln Parish Park, contribute to our knowledge of bird habitat relationships, assess the effects of timber harvest on bird communities, assess the efficacy of hearing amplification on bird detections, and promote recreational birding and tourism in North Louisiana.

Keywords

Birds, birding, bird counts, hearing amplification, tourism