



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

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Birding on Indian Bayou





**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

New Orleans District

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Emergency Contact Numbers:

Acadian Ambulance 911

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ABFS Office (337) 585-0853


The Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System is designed to protect south Louisiana from Mississippi River floods, as well as retain and restore unique environmental features and long term productivity of the natural environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with other federal, state and local agencies, works cooperatively to provide flood control, navigation, environmental protection, recreation, and public access to the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System.

The Indian Bayou Area is a 28,000-acre public access area managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Lane Lefort ©

A photograph of three white egrets standing in a marshy area. They are surrounded by green vegetation and brown twigs. The birds have long, straight, yellowish-orange beaks and are looking towards the right. The background is a dense thicket of green plants and brown branches.

The Corps manages the area to promote unique wildlife and habitats of the Atchafalaya Basin. Several threatened and endangered species inhabit the basin. A large portion of the area has been restored from agricultural development into swamp and bottomland hardwood forest habitat.

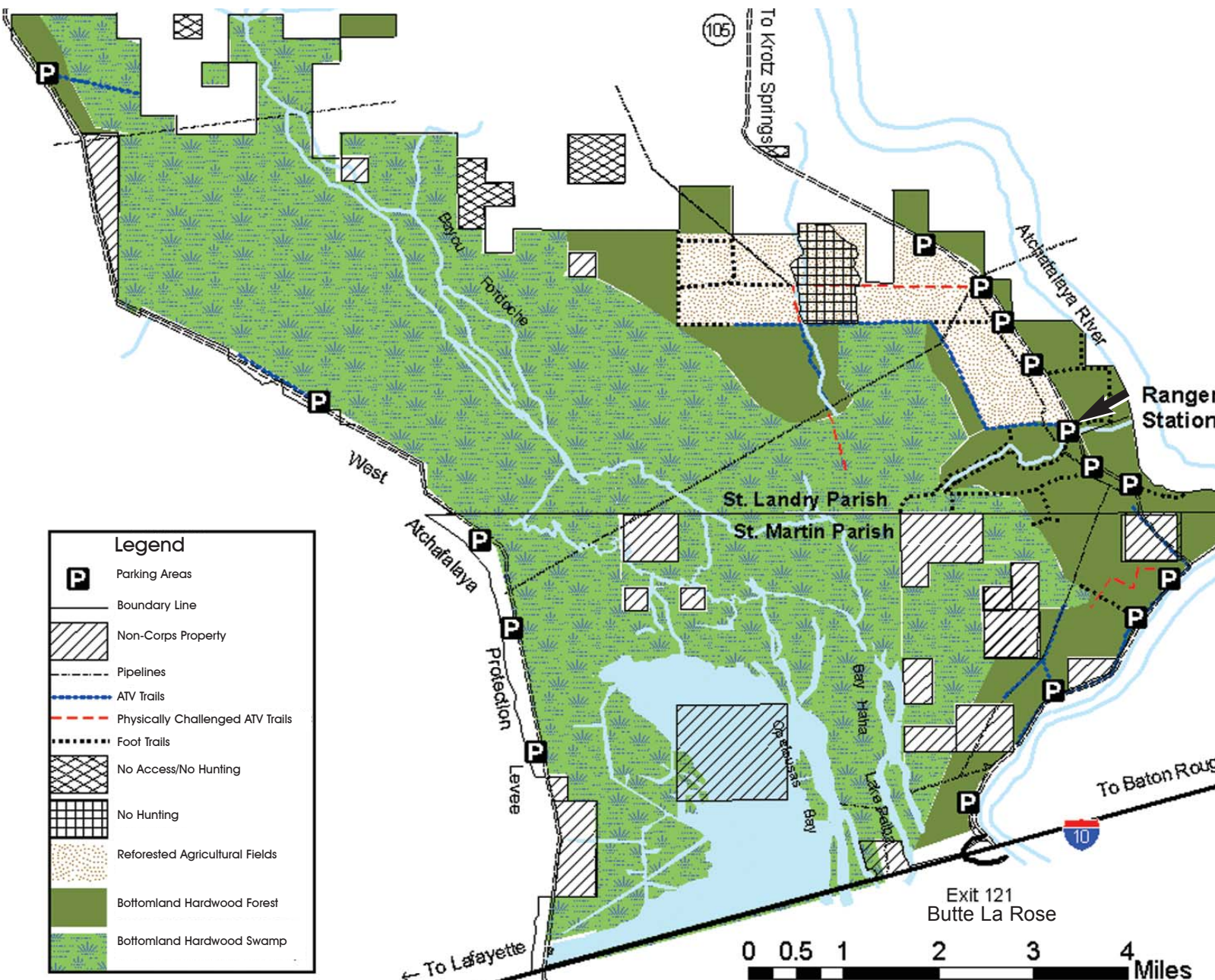
Average annual rainfall in the basin is about 54 inches. The climate is mild with subtropical weather throughout much of the year.

Many opportunities exist for birding in the area. The Atchafalaya Basin has been identified as a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. The bottomland hardwood forests and the mix of bayous, oxbow lakes, sloughs and swamps create a diversity of habitats important to a wide range of bird species.

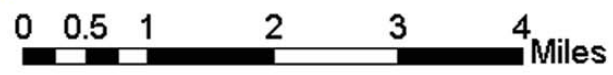
Neotropical migrants abound during the fall and spring migrations and many species nest here. Several thousand waterfowl winter in the area. The Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite and White-tailed Kite have been observed. Unusual wading birds that can be sighted during the summer months include Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork.

The following bird list contains 200 species, representing observations by Corps and state personnel, local birders, researchers and volunteers. Sightings of unlisted species should be reported to:

Park Manager
Indian Bayou Area
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System
112 Speck Lane
Port Barre, LA 70577
(337) 585-0853



Legend	
P	Parking Areas
—	Boundary Line
	Non-Corps Property
- - -	Pipelines
	ATV Trails
	Physically Challenged ATV Trails
	Foot Trails
	No Access/No Hunting
	No Hunting
	Reforested Agricultural Fields
	Bottomland Hardwood Forest
	Bottomland Hardwood Swamp



Exit 121
Butte La Rose

← To Lafayette

To Baton Rouge

105

10

Ranger Station

St. Landry Parish
St. Martin Parish

West

Atchafalaya

protection
Levee

Bayou

Forêt

Atchafalaya River

Bayou

Mahebra

de la Perdrix

Bayou

de la Perdrix

Indian Bayou Area Bird Check List

Seasons

Spring March-May
 Summer June-July
 Fall August-November
 Winter December-February



Frequency

a-abundant Many individuals per day in appropriate habitat and season (>100/day)
 c-common Certain to be seen in suitable habitat (10-100/day)
 u-uncommon Usually present in suitable habitat (<10/day)
 r-rare Seen only a few times during a season (<1/day)
 o-occasional Only seen every few years

Habitat where found (H)

W - Open Water A - Aerial/flyover
 S - Swamp f - forest
 F - Field s - scrub-shrub
 M - Marsh/Mud Flat E- Forest Edge



√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
	Grebes					
	Pied-billed Grebe	r		c	c	W
	Pelicans					
	American White Pelican	r		c	c	W
	Cormorants & Ahingas					
	Double-crested Cormorant	c	o	c	c	W
	Neotropic Cormorant	c	o	c	c	W

√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	
	Anhinga	c	c	u	r	V
	Hérons & Bitterns					
	Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	c	S
	Great Egret	a	a	c	c	S
	Snowy Egret	c	c	c	u	S
	Little Blue Heron*	c	c	c	o	S
	Tricolored Heron*	c	c	r		S
	Cattle Egret	a	a	a	r	H
	Green Heron	u	u	u		S
	Black-crowned Night-Heron*	u	u	u	r	H
	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	a	a			S
	Ibises					
	White Ibis	a	c	c	c	M
	White-faced Ibis	a	a	c	c	H
	Roseate Spoonbill	o	o	o	o	H
	Storks					
	Wood Stork*	u	c			H
	American Vultures					
	Black Vulture	c	c	c	c	A
	Turkey Vulture	c	u	c	c	A
	Waterfowl					
	Greater White-fronted Goose	o		o	o	V
	Snow (Blue) Goose	o		o	u	V
	Wood Duck	c	c	c	a	S
	Gadwall	u		r	u	V
	American Wigeon	u		u	c	V
	Mallard	c		c	c	V
	Mottled Duck	c	c	c	c	V
	Blue-winged Teal	u	o	u	u	V
	Northern Shoveler	u		u	c	V
	Northern Pintail	u	u	c		V
	Green-winged Teal	r		o	o	V
	Canvasback	r		r	u	V
	Redhead	r		r	u	V
	Ring-necked Duck	u		u	c	V
	Lesser Scaup	c		c	c	V
	Bufflehead	r		r	u	V
	Hooded Merganser	u	r	u	c	V
	Red-breasted Merganser	o		o	o	V

√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
	Ruddy Duck	c	c	c		W
	Hawks					
	Osprey	c	c	c	u	W
	Swallow-tailed Kite*	c	c	u		A
	White-tailed Kite*		r			A
	Mississippi Kite*	a	a	c		A
	Bald Eagle*	r	r	r		W
	Northern Harrier*	u	u	u		F
	Sharp-shinned Hawk*	u	u	u		f
	Cooper's Hawk*	u	u	u		f
	Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c	S
	Broad-winged Hawk	c	u	c		f
	Red-tailed Hawk	c	o	c	c	F
	Falcons					
	American Kestrel*	c		c	c	F
	Merlin	o		o	r	F
	Peregrine Falcon*	r		r	o	F
	Turkeys					
	Wild Turkey	c	c	c	c	F
	Rails					
	King Rail	c	u	c	c	S
	Virginia Rail	u		u	u	M
	Sora	u		u	c	M
	Common Moorhen	u	u	r		M
	American Coot	c		c	c	W
	Plovers					
	Black-bellied Plover	r		r		M
	Semipalmated Plover	o		o		M
	Killdeer	c	c	c	c	F
	Stilts					
	Black-necked Stilt	c	c	c	u	M
	Sandpipers					
	Greater Yellowlegs	c	c	c		M
	Lesser Yellowlegs	u		u	u	M
	Solitary Sandpiper*	u	u	u		S
	Spotted Sandpiper	u		u	u	S
	Common Snipe	u		u	c	M
	American Woodcock	u	u	c	c	s
	Gulls & Terns					
	Forster's Tern	u	u	u	u	A

√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
	Doves					
	Eurasian Collared-dove	c	c	c	c	A
	Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c	f
	Cuckoos					
	Black-billed Cuckoo	r	r	r		s
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	c	c	c		s
	Owls					
	Barn Owl	o	o	o	o	f
	Eastern Screech-Owl	u	u	u	u	f
	Great Horned Owl	u	u	u	u	f
	Barred Owl	c	c	c	c	S
	Nightjars					
	Common Nighthawk	c	u	c		A
	Chuck-will's-widow*	u		u		f
	Whip-poor-will*	o		o		f
	Swifts					
	Chimney Swift	c	c	c		A
	Hummingbirds					
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	c	c	c		f
	Rufous Hummingbird				u	f
	Kingfishers					
	Belted Kingfisher	c	u	c	c	V
	Woodpeckers					
	Red-headed Woodpecker*	u	u	u	r	f
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f
	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u		c	c	f
	Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f
	Hairy Woodpecker	u	u	u	u	f
	Northern Flicker	c	r	c	c	f
	Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	f
	Flycatchers					
	Olive-sided Flycatcher	o		o		f
	Eastern Wood-Pewee*	u		u		f
	Acadian Flycatcher	c	c	c		f
	Alder Flycatcher			u		s
	Least Flycatcher			u		s
	Eastern Phoebe	c		c	c	s
	Vermilion Flycatcher	r		r	r	E
	Great Crested Flycatcher	c	c	u		E
	Eastern Kingbird*	c	c	r		E
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	o		o		F

√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
	Vireos					
	White-eyed Vireo*	a	a	a	r	E
	Yellow-throated Vireo	c	c	c		E
	Blue-headed Vireo			u	c	f
	Philadelphia Vireo	r		u		f
	Red-eyed Vireo	a	a	a		f
	Jays and Crows					
	Blue Jay	c	c	c	c	f
	American Crow	a	a	a	a	F
	Fish Crow	a	c	c	c	F
	Swallows					
	Purple Martin	c	c	o		A
	Tree Swallow	c		c	c	A
	Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	c	c	c		A
	Bank Swallow	u		u		A
	Cliff Swallow	u	u	u		A
	Barn Swallow	c	c	c		A
	Titmice					
	Carolina Chickadee*	c	c	c	c	f
	Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c	f
	Nuthatches					
	Red-breasted Nuthatch			o	o	f
	Creepers					
	Brown Creeper	u		u	u	f
	Wrens					
	Carolina Wren	a	a	a	a	s
	House Wren	u		u	u	s
	Winter Wren	u		u	u	s
	Sedge Wren	u		u	u	s
	Marsh Wren	u	u	u	u	M
	Kinglets					
	Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	u	f
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	a		a	a	s
	Gnatcatchers					
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	c	c	u	f
	Thrushes					
	Eastern Bluebird	c	c	u	u	F
	Veery	u		u		f
	Gray-cheeked Thrush	u		u		f
	Swainson's Thrush	u		u		f
	Hermit Thrush	u		c	c	f

√	Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
	Wood Thrush*	c	c	c		s
	American Robin	a		a	a	l
	Shrikes					
	Loggerhead Shrike*	u	u	u	u	l
	Mockingbirds & Thrashers					
	Gray Catbird*	c		c	u	s
	Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c	l
	Brown Thrasher*	u		u	u	s
	Starlings					
	European Starling (exotic)	c	c	c	a	l
	Pipits					
	American Pipit	u		u	u	l
	Waxwings					
	Cedar Waxing	a		u	a	f
	Wood Warblers					
	Blue-winged Warbler	u		u		s
	Golden-winged Warbler	r		r		s
	Tennessee Warbler	c		c		s
	Orange-crowned Warbler	u		u	c	s
	Nashville Warbler			u		s
	Northern Parula*	a	a			f
	Yellow Warbler	u	o	c		s
	Yellow-throated Warbler	u	u	r		s
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	u		u		s
	Magnolia Warbler	u		c		s
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	a	s
	Black-throated Green Warbler	u		c		f
	Blackburnian Warbler	u		r		f
	Pine Warbler	r		r	r	f
	Prairie Warbler	o		r		s
	Palm Warbler*	o		u	u	l
	Bay-breasted Warbler	u		r		f
	Cerulean Warbler*	u				f
	Black-and-White Warbler	u		u	o	f
	American Redstart	a	c	c		f
	Prothonotary Warbler*	a	a	r		f
	Worm-eating Warbler*	u		u		s
	Swainson's Warbler*	c	c	r		s
	Ovenbird	u		u		s

√ Species	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	H
Northern Waterthrush	u		u		S
Louisiana Waterthrush*	u		u		S
Kentucky Warbler*	c	c	u		s
Mourning Warbler				u	s
Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c	M
Hooded Warbler	c	c	c		s
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	r	s
Canada Warbler	r		u		s
Yellow-breasted Chat*	a	a	c	o	s
Tanagers					
Summer Tanager	c	c	c		f
Scarlet Tanager	u		u		
Grosbeaks, Sparrows					
& Buntings					
Eastern Towhee	c	c	c	c	s
Fox Sparrow	r		r	u	s
Song Sparrow	u		u	c	s
Savannah Sparrow	c		c	c	s
Grasshopper Sparrow	u		u	u	s
Lincoln's Sparrow	r		c	c	s
Swamp Sparrow	c		c	c	M
White-throated Sparrow	a		a	a	E
White-crowned Sparrow	u		r	u	s
Dark-eyed Junco	u		r	u	E
Northern Cardinal	a	a	a	a	f
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u		u		f
Blue Grosbeak	u	u	c	u	s
Indigo Bunting	c	c	c		s
Painted Bunting*	c	c	u		E
Dickcissel*	u	r	u		F
Blackbirds and Orioles					
Bobolink		u			F
Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	a	M
Eastern Meadowlark*	c	c	c	c	F
Rusty Blackbird*	u		r	u	S
Common Grackle	a	a	a	a	F
Brown-headed Cowbird	a	a	c	a	F
Orchard Oriole*	u	u	o		s
Baltimore Oriole*		u		u	f
Purple Finch	u		r	u	f
House Finch	u	o	u	u	s
American Goldfinch	c		u	a	F

* Species of concern, due to declining populations

Sighting Notes

Date: _____ Time: _____ To: _____

Weather: _____

No. Of Species: _____

Route or Area: _____

Observers: _____

Remarks: _____

Ethics of Birding

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.

Do not litter! Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

For further information, contact:
 Park Manager
 Indian Bayou Area
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System
 112 Speck Lane
 Port Barre, LA 70577
 (337) 585-0853



DIRECTIONS

Located in St. Landry and St. Martin parishes, the Indian Bayou Area is 40 miles west of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, north of Interstate Hwy 10 and just west of the Atchafalaya River.

To access from Interstate 10, take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121) and follow the levee road north. From U.S. Hwy 190, exit at Krotz Springs and take LA Hwy 105 south.

There are several public parking areas along the levee road. The most popular hiking trails on Indian Bayou can be accessed from the main parking area. Please follow the driving directions below.

From Interstate 10 take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121) and follow the levee road north about 5.6 miles to the sixth parking area on the left. From U.S. Hwy 190 exit at Krotz Springs and take LA Hwy 105 south about 11.5 miles to the fifth parking area on the right.



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Photo by Michael Murphree ©