



# Bayou Birds



*Jean Lafitte Scenic Byway:  
Vermilion Loop*

337-898-6600

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## VERMILION LOOP

The Vermilion Loop traces the lower reaches of Bayou Vermilion through the heart of “Cajun Country,” from Lafayette, through Abbeville, and nearly to its confluence with Vermilion Bay (just below Palmetto Island State Park). The riparian forests associated with Bayou Vermilion are known for holding a wide assortment of birdlife, from Mississippi Kites and Broad-winged Hawks during the summer nesting season, to a plethora of neotropical songbirds during the spring and fall migration periods. Similarly, the coastal woodlands associated with Palmetto Island, Pine Island, and Pecan Island’s Front Ridge can hold enormous communities of songbirds.

Below Abbeville, the Vermilion Loop pops out into coastal prairie lands – now converted to cattle ranches and rice farms – where ducks, geese, and sandpipers abound during the spring, fall, and especially winter months. For those birders who are particularly interested in these bird groups, check out sites such as Gladu Road, Pelican and Bobwhite Roads, and Prairie Road at Mouton Cove.

Still further south, this loop grades back into marsh country, where herons, egrets, ibises, and Roseate Spoonbills are common on a near year round basis. The series of wooden fishing piers along LA 82 and the intersection of LA 3147 (Freshwater City Road) and Front Ridge Road in southern Vermilion Parish are outstanding areas for viewing these and other birds.



## Acadiana Park Nature Station & Trails

Site 4-1



**Site Access:** Free

**GPS Coordinates:** N 30.25562; W 91.98873

**Site Contact:** Bill Fontenot; 337-291-8448

**Website:** [www.naturestation.org](http://www.naturestation.org)

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, continue east on I 10 for 1.4 miles and exit Louisiana Ave. Turn right (south) on Louisiana Ave. and go 1.0 mile to Alexander Street. Turn left and go 0.6 miles to the entrance road on the left. Turn left and go 0.2 miles. Park at the Acadiana Park Nature Station information kiosk. Follow the sign directing visitors to “Take the Walking Path to Nature Station,” walking about 0.25 miles to the Nature Station building.

**Description:** The Acadiana Park Nature Station & Trails occupies 125 acres of the last remaining bottomland hardwood forest within the corporate limits of Lafayette. Bordered on the south by Dan Debaillon Coulee and on the east by Bayou Vermilion, the 3+-mile nature trail system traverses a mature forest of live and water oaks, green ash, American sycamore, sweetgum, water hickory, and dwarf palmetto.

Summers feature nesting Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos, Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers, along with Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Cardinal. Nature Station staff also often locate one or more Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests.

During winter, expect to see Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Wood Duck, along with nearctic migrants such as Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, White-crowned Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. Spring and fall provide dozens of migrating neotropical flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles.

## Abbeville RV Park

Site 4-2



**Site access:** Free, Fee

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.97785; W 92.16393

**Site contact:** Arlene White, Manager; 337-893-0013

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston St. Turn right and go west/ south on US 167 for 20.6 miles to West Port Street in Abbeville. Turn right (west) and drive 0.5 miles to the park entrance on the left side of road.

**Description:** The Abbeville RV Park site contains some of the most interesting vegetation in south Louisiana. Most forested areas within the coastal zone of the state are bottomland hardwood (green ash, live oak, American elm, water hickory) in nature. However, elements of mature upland hardwood forests (mockernut hickory, flowering dogwood, cow oak) which exist well to the north of this site have persisted down to this latitude.

Year round residents include Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, and Northern Cardinal. During the winter months, residents are joined by Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, as well as Orange-crowned, Pine and Yellow-rumped warblers, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Spring and fall migration can bring any number of eastern U.S./ Canadian neotropical woodland species. Commonly encountered transients include Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireos, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Magnolia and Black-throated Green warblers, Scarlet and Summer tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole.





## Gladu Road

Site 4-3



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 30.12357; W 92.24224

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission;  
337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west/ south on US 167 for 13.1 miles to LA 699. Turn right (west) and follow it 3.0 miles to LA 343/ LA 699. Go left (south) on LA 343 for 1.5 miles to its intersection with Gladu Road. Turn right (west) onto Gladu Road, birding both sides for 2.0 miles.

**Description:** Gladu Road is a quiet farm road that traverses rice and crawfish production lands filled with bird life. Wood Stork, Great Egret, White-faced Ibis, and Roseate Spoonbill are common summer visitors.

Shorebirds can be found almost any month of the year. Deeper water in the fields (6 inches and over) limits shorebird usage to only the longer-legged species such as Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, and during spring migration, Marbled Godwit and Whimbrel.

Recently drained fields attract all species from the shortest to the longest-legged. During spring migration, 20 or more shorebird species can congregate in a single newly-drained field. Look for Killdeer, Black-bellied, American Golden and Semipalmated plovers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Solitary, Upland, Semipalmated, Western, Least, Pectoral, Buff-breasted, and Stilt sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Long-billed and Short-billed dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope.

## Bancker Grotto at Live Oak Road

Site 4-4



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.88464; W 92.12430

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission;  
337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port Street in Abbeville. Go left (east) for 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 1.3 miles to LA 330/ S. State St. Turn left and go south 6.1 miles to LA 690. Go right (west) on LA 690 for 1.6 miles to Bancker Grotto at the head of Live Oak Road.

**Description:** This peaceful site, currently marked by a religious shrine and small park, once served as a river port for four large plantations. Visiting birders should check the canopies of the park's coast live oaks for warblers, vireos, orioles, and other songbirds, particularly during winter and throughout migration periods.

In winter, a short walk to the old Bancker Ferry landing might produce Neotropical and Double-crested cormorants, Great Egret, Great Blue and Green heron, as well as Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck.

From mid-October through Mid-April, peruse the scrubby woodland along the north side of LA 690 for House Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal.

Live Oak Road leads south for miles through agricultural fields along the eastern bank of Bayou Vermilion to the privately-owned Live Oak Plantation. Although the plantation grounds are not open to the public, the sides of the roadway leading to this old plantation site are often alive with wading birds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and flycatchers.



## Cultural/Historical Attractions

### LAFAYETTE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM

The Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium opened in 1969 through the combined efforts of private citizens, the City of Lafayette, and the Lafayette Parish School Board. The Museum exists to encourage the discovery and understanding of the natural world, the universe, and the role of humans within them.

For location, Museum hours, admission, and tour information, call 337-291-5544 or visit [www.inhm.org](http://www.inhm.org).



## Pelican and Bobwhite Roads

Site 4-5



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** Pelican Rd. X LA 330: N 29.88261; W 92.08968

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission; 337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston St. Turn right and go west for 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port St. Go left (east) 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 1.3 miles to LA 330/ S. State St. Turn left and go south 6.7 to Pelican Rd. Turn right (south) onto Pelican Road, birding the public lands for 1.4 miles to Bobwhite Road.

**Description:** The agricultural fields along Pelican Road hold allure year round, especially during the warmer months when herons and egrets crowd into this wetland/ agricultural complex. Look for Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored and Green herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Great and Snowy egrets, as well as White and White-faced ibis, and Roseate Spoonbill. During spring migration, look for American and Least bitterns in the taller vegetation bordering the fields.

During both migrations and winter, the fields are dominated by Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Western and Least sandpipers, Dunlin, and Long-billed Dowitcher. During migration only, look for Snowy Plover, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Upland, Semipalmated, White-rumped, Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers. In winter, "puddle" ducks such as Mallard, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal use the fields close to the beginning of Pelican Road.

## Palmetto Island State Park/Pleasant Road

Site 4-6



**Site access:** Park to open in 2005

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.88034; W 92.18652

**Site contact:** Palmetto Island State Park; 337-898-6600

**Website:** [www.crt.state.la.us/crt/parks](http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/parks)

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west on US 167 for 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port Street in Abbeville. Go left (east) for 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 6.9 miles to LA 690. Go left (east) on LA 690 for 0.9 miles to Pleasant Rd. Turn right (south) on Pleasant Road and follow 2.0 miles to Palmetto Island State Park which is set to open in Fall 2005.

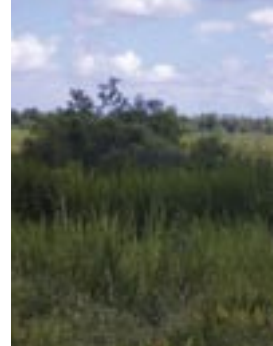
**Description:** Pleasant Road traverses a mixture of baldcypress-tupelo gum swamp and bottomland hardwood forest. Much of the forest floor is carpeted with southern shield fern and dwarf palmetto, the spiky shrub from which Palmetto Island State Park takes its name.

During the spring and summer months, look for locally-nesting species like Wood Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wrens, as well as Hooded, Kentucky, Northern Parula and Prothonotary warblers, Northern Cardinal, and Painted and Indigo buntings.

Spring and fall bring additional woodland migrants such as Great Crested, Yellow-bellied, Alder, and Least flycatchers, along with Eastern Wood-Pewee. These birds join White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed vireos; Blue-winged, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Worm-eating and Canada warblers; and Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes.

Winter brings nearctic species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, House and Winter wrens, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned, Pine and Yellow-rumped warblers, and White-throated Sparrow.

The 1300-acre Palmetto Island State Park is presently under construction, and is slated to open in late 2005. Amenities will include a nature center, cabins, campsites, picnic pavilions, playground, swimming pool, comfort stations, boat launches, and hiking trails.



Freshwater marshes provide prime habitat for an array of plant life such as maiden cane and bull tongue, and animal life such as frogs, turtles, alligators, muskrats, mink, egrets, herons and hawks. Alligators, once thought to be on the brink of extinction, have made a strong comeback in Louisiana.





## Mouton Cove Area/ Prairie Road

Site 4-7



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.88034; W 92.18652

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission;  
337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port Street in Abbeville. Go left (east) for 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 7.8 miles to LA 691/ Rue Francois/ Community Road. Turn right and go west 0.7 miles to Prairie Road. Go left, birding along either side of the road for another 0.7 miles to its terminus.

**Description:** Mouton Cove, located on the west side LA 82 between LA 690 and LA 691, specializes in rice, crawfish, and cattle production. The wet agricultural fields along the east side of Prairie Road offer some of the best viewing opportunities for waterfowl (November-February) and shorebirds (August-May). The most spectacular time for certain waterfowl species (especially Fulvous Whistling-duck, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal) and for most shorebird species (plovers, sandpipers, godwits included) is between March and April when thousands of birds from each of these groups converge upon Mouton Cove.

The west side of Prairie Road features a baldcypress swamp bordered by an irrigation canal. This habitat supports Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue and Green herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, and White Ibis. Look also for Least and American bitterns, especially during the spring migration months, as well as sundry swamp-dwelling songbirds such as Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula (spring, summer) and Prothonotary Warbler (spring, summer).

## Pine Island Road

Site 4-8



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** LA 82 X Pine Island Rd.: N 29.83155; W 92.30833

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist  
Commission; 337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west on US 167 for 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port Street in Abbeville. Go left (east) 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 18.9 miles to Intracoastal Waterway bridge at Forked Island. Just after crossing the bridge, go right (west) onto Pine Island Road.

**Description:** Pine Island Road runs westward, roughly paralleling the south bank of the Intracoastal Waterway for 15 miles. However, the first 6.0 miles which run through a mix of freshwater marshes, rice fields, and pastures, offer the best birding.

About 4.0 miles into the drive, broadleaf evergreen maritime forest begins to dominate. This peculiar coastal forest developed atop the ancient levee banks of the Pleistocene Era Mississippi and Red rivers and is comprised mostly of coast live oak, water oak, and yaupon holly, with some scattered southern magnolia. From April through August, this forest holds amazingly high concentrations of neotropical nesting species including Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warblers, along with residents Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, and Northern Cardinal.

Between August and October, look for Broad-winged Hawk, Great Crested, Yellow-bellied, Alder and Least flycatchers, Warbling and Philadelphia vireos, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green warblers, Summer and Scarlet tanagers, Indigo and Painted buntings, and Orchard and Baltimore orioles.

Check the various pockets of marsh, rice field, and pasture for many surprises during the spring, fall, and winter months. Possibilities include White and White-faced ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Mottled Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, Merlin, Eastern Phoebe, American Pipit, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Brewer's and Rusty blackbirds.



## LA 82 Fishing Piers

Site 4-9



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** Pier 1: N 29.73114; W 92.33415 /  
Pier 2: N 29.74674; W 92.02846 / Pier 3: N 29.69376; W 92.35588 /  
Pier 4: N 29.67842; W 92.36313

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish  
Tourist Commission; 337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port St. in Abbeville. Go left (east) for 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south-west on LA 82 (follow LA 82 signs) for about 28 miles to the Little Prairie draw bridge. Continuing west on LA 82, there are a total of 4 fishing piers, located the following distances from the draw bridge: Pier 1, 1.0 miles; Pier 2, 1.9 miles; Pier 3, 3.7 miles; Pier 4, 4.8 miles; all of which are located on the right (north) side of the road.

**Description:** The LA 82 Fishing Piers offer safe pull-offs from this busy roadway, which runs through some of the most gorgeous freshwater marsh habitats in all of Louisiana. During the summer months, look for local breeders such as Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue, Tricolored, and Green herons, Mottled Duck, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Marsh Wren, Boat-tailed Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird and Orchard Oriole.

In winter, additional species such as Pied-billed Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Sora, American Coot, Forster's and Caspian terns, Belted Kingfisher, Loggerhead Shrike, Tree Swallow, and Common Yellowthroat, along with Savannah, Swamp and Song sparrows join the mix. Keep an eye out for numerous species of wading birds, waterfowl, and Red-tailed Hawks.

During both migrations many additional species are possible: American and Least bitterns, Osprey, Bonaparte's and Ring-billed gulls, Black Tern, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Purple Martin, as well as Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff and Barn swallows, Sedge and House wrens, Gray Catbird, and Lincoln's Sparrow. American Alligators are also commonly observed from the piers almost year round.

## Fresh Water City Road/ LA 3147

Site 4-10



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.65555; W 92.37104

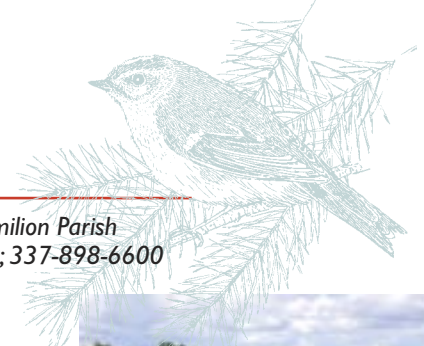
**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission;  
337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go south-west on US 167 for 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port St. Go left (east) 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south-west on LA 82 (follow LA 82 signs) for 33.1 miles to LA 3147. Bear left (south) on LA 3147. Note: This road is not hard-surfaced, often dusty and is heavily used by large oilfield trucks.

**Description:** The marshlands on either side of this roadway hold an impressive array of bird life, and much can be seen from your vehicle while proceeding slowly down its 10-mile length. During migration periods, look for large aggregations of gulls and terns, especially Laughing and Ring-billed gulls and Gull-billed, Caspian, Forster's, Least and Black terns. Also keep an eye out for American and Least bitterns resting in the cattails along the roadside itself.

Ducks pack into the area in the winter months. Both "puddle" (Mallard, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged and Green-winged teal) and "diving" (Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and occasionally Canvasback and/or Redhead) ducks may be observed. During winter, scan the sky for raptors such as Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Northern Harrier, and Red-tailed Hawk.

Summer staples include Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue, Tricolored, and Green herons, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Purple Gallinule, and Black-necked Stilt, among others.



Almost one-third of all the fisheries catch from the continental United States comes from coastal Louisiana.



## Pecan Island Front Ridge Road

Site 4-11



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.64659; W 92.44437

**Site contact:** Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission;  
337-898-6600

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 167/ Exit 103 in Lafayette, go south on US 167/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 1.6 miles to US 90. Continue south on US 90/ NW Evangeline Thruway for 0.6 miles until it reconnects with US 167/ Johnston Street. Turn right and go west on US 167 for 20.7 miles to LA 14/ W. Port Street in Abbeville. Go left (east) for 0.4 miles to LA 82/ S. State St. Continue south on LA 82 for 37.6 miles to Front Ridge Road. Turn left (southeast), birding mainly the left (north) side of the road for the next 4.1 miles to its terminus on LA3147/ Freshwater City Road. Note: Please use caution when pulling off the road and please do not pull off onto residential driveways.

**Description:** The Pecan Island Front Ridge road runs along a live oak-studded “chenier” (a peculiar type of coastal forest dominated by live oaks growing upon ancient beach ridges which have become stranded via land accretion), well-known to local Vermilion Parish birders, especially during the spring migration months (March-May).

During the spring, and particularly during periods of inclement weather (during and just after rains, and during periods of strong northerly breezes), check the live oak canopies along the roadside for migrating neotropical songbirds like White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed vireos, Wood, Swainson’s and Gray-cheeked thrushes, numerous warblers, Summer and Scarlet tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, and others.

The cattle pen and pasture lands along the north side of the roadway should also be checked for unusual species such as Yellow-headed Blackbird and Bronzed Cowbird, mixed in with groups of Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds, respectively.



## Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Chambers of Commerce

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission  
1907 Veterans Memorial Dr.  
Abbeville, LA 70510  
Phone: 337-898-6600  
[www.vermilion.org](http://www.vermilion.org)

Abbeville Tourist Information Center  
1905 Veterans Memorial Dr.  
Abbeville, LA 70510  
Phone: 337-898-4264  
[www.vermilion.org](http://www.vermilion.org)

Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission  
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thwy.  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
Phone: 337-232-3737  
Toll Free Consumer: 800-346-1958  
[www.lafayettettravel.com](http://www.lafayettettravel.com)



## Jean Lafitte Scenic Byway

This byway derived its name from the famed, Jean Lafitte, known for his piracy in the Gulf of Mexico and lauded for his heroism in the Battle of New Orleans. Jean Lafitte Scenic Byway begins in Lafayette and connects the historic towns of Abbeville, Erath, Kaplan and Gueydan and the larger communities of Jennings and New Iberia. Towards the Gulf of Mexico, the byway traverses coastal marshes around Pecan Island where many Cajuns still keep their fishing and duck camps. This region introduces visitors to “cheniers,” a type of coastal woodland dominated by coast live oak, situated atop ancient “stranded” Holocene beach ridges. This byway allows visitors to get a true taste of Cajun culture, whether it’s through the local restaurants showcasing Cajun foods, the beautifully constructed area architecture, or the various museums and heritage centers.