

Hubert Hervey Least Tern 2020 Summer Surveys

BSG board member Hubert Hervey teamed up again this year with personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led by Stewart Gilmore to survey Least Tern on the Red River. The purpose of the surveys is to determine annual reproductive success of the terns on Red River. The first survey was conducted on 5 August. The surveys were conducted a little late this year and Hubert suspects that some Least Tern had already migrated. Since they were unable to launch at the LA 2 bridge in Louisiana, the team put in at AR Hwy 160 (Doddridge) and surveyed to the Cash Point area.

The first survey stop was conducted at Mile marker 278 (Palmer Lake, AR) near the launch point. Hubert recorded 10 adults and 7 fledged juveniles. The next stop was Mile marker 273.4 (Missionary Revetment in LA). Here Hubert recorded 4 adults and 6 fledged juveniles. At Mile marker 267 (Float Revetment) he recorded 4 adults and 1 fledged juvenile. At Mile marker 264.7 (Hosston Revetment), he recorded 6 adults and 2 fledged juveniles. Just north of Cash Point at mile marker 243.5 (Cat Island), Hubert recorded 20 adults and 10 fledged juveniles. The survey team ended the day just south of Cash Point at mile marker 240 (Cattle Island) where Hubert recorded 13 adults and 11 fledged juveniles. The total for the day was 57 adults and 37 fledged juveniles.

The team continued the survey on August 6, putting in at the launch on Arthur Ray Teague Parkway and taking out at the launch at St. Maurice. Hubert recorded one lone adult at mile marker 203 (Pool 5). After traversing Lock & Dam #5 at mile marker 200, they surveyed Least Tern at mile marker 198, 2 miles south of the Lock & Dam. Four adults were recorded. At mile marker 191 (West Dale Realignment), Hubert recorded 8 adults, 17 fledged juveniles, and one 8-day old running chick. The total for this run was 13 adults, 17 fledged juveniles, and 1 chick.

The last survey was conducted on August 11 and covered from St. Maurice to Lock & Dam #1, about a 30 to 40-mile run. Only two adults were recorded at mile marker 117 (Pool 2).

The totals for the 3 days of surveying came to 72 adults, 50 fledged juveniles, and 1 chick.