

I have been an avid birdwatcher since the late 1970's when I was introduced to birding by one of the staff gastroenterologists at Ochsner Foundation Hospital where I was doing a fellowship. I joined the Baton Rouge Clinic in 1978 and practiced gastroenterology there until my retirement in 2006. During my medical career much of my free time was taken up with trips locally and nationally to areas known for their birdlife. In 2005, with my retirement rapidly approaching, I decided that adding photography to my birding would be an excellent hobby for my retirement years. Over the last six years I have enjoyed trips all over the United States and parts of Canada where I have had the opportunity to see and photograph hundreds of birds. I am primarily a birder who loves to take pictures of the birds that he sees. Accordingly, I have to use equipment small enough and light enough for me to carry in the field for long and sometimes strenuous hikes. After much research I settled on a combination of a Canon 20D camera (now a 50D) and a Canon F4, 300mm IS lens attached to a 1.4X teleconverter. I am able to carry this combo on my shoulder and I have been quite pleased with the quality of the pictures produced. Living in Louisiana where a great variety of birds are readily found especially during the spring and fall migrations makes it easy for me to pursue my hobby throughout the year. I have enjoyed my association with the Louisiana Photographic Society over the last year and have picked up some excellent pointers from the professionals and amateurs who give such excellent programs at the monthly meetings. I look forward to continuing my education in both birding and photography.