



GAVIN BLANCHARD

Avian and Applied Geosciences Intern

Gavin Blanchard, Avian and Applied Geosciences Intern, provides support to The Water Institute in multiple research areas including georeferencing photomosaics of colonial waterbird distributions over the past ten years and working with the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission. Gavin's experience in sediment coring and other field work coupled with his skill in applications such as QGIS makes him an asset when collecting and interpreting data for various projects at The Water Institute. Currently, Gavin is working on analyzing minerals in a volcanic ash deposit from a 450-million-year-old eruption to learn more about the tectonic setting of the subduction zone. Gavin will graduate with a B.S. in Geology from Louisiana State University on Dec. 22, 2024. In his free time Gavin likes to volunteer in the vertebrate paleontology collections room for the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Avian and Applied
Geosciences Intern

EDUCATION

BS, Geology,
Louisiana State
University, *Expected:*
Dec. 22, 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024–Present: Avian and Applied Geosciences Intern, The Water Institute

2023: Student, LSU Geology Field Camp

2021–2023: PAST Lab Research Assistant, Louisiana State University



SELECTED PROJECTS

Colonial Waterbird Monitoring in Louisiana. *Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. (Ongoing).*

Georeferencing Mosaics; Dotting. The collection and analysis of aerial photographic surveys have been used to monitor shrub- and select ground-nesting waterbird species across the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Barrier Islands Habitat Assessment for Coastal Waterbirds. *Brown Foundation. (Ongoing).* Research and Data Development; Report Development. This project is developing machine learning workflows to analyze bird and habitat data from aerial imagery and fill in associated data gaps for restoration design. This is a cross-disciplinary effort providing a novel approach to inform barrier island restoration and bird conservation activities in Louisiana.

Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission Research and Education Support. *ExxonMobil. (Ongoing).* Staff Facilitation and Recommendation Development. Communicating the strategic plan for water resources sustainability in the greater Baton Rouge area utilizing structured decision making.