

Celebrating our 70th Anniversary
LOS SPRING MEETING
28-30 April 2017
Jennings

As Venture Global LNG construction looms on Cameron's horizon and concerns mount regarding lodging opportunities in the *one-motel town* of Cameron, the LOS Board has decided to relocate the spring meeting inland to Jennings, LA. We realize there are distance drawbacks to this inland site. We won't wake up on the coast, but we hope the added driving distance will not reflect poorly on this spring meeting's attendance. The Jennings area has a lot to offer with regard to lodging and food opportunities, not to mention proximity to the area's working wetlands and the abundance of birds in rural SW LA. Please join us to celebrate LOS's platinum anniversary in Jennings. To celebrate the occasion, we have scheduled two talks we believe members will enjoy. Field trips will still target some of our favorite Cameron Parish destinations. In keeping with changes encouraged by our membership and initiated during the Winter 2017 LOS Meeting, **field trips will be limited in size and you will need to pre-register for specific field trips** by emailing donnaldittmann@gmail.com. We want to accommodate our membership. So, if we know one trip is popular/fills up, then we will do our best to add additional trips. The LOS Spring Meeting will be based at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Jennings, LA. The Hampton has set aside a room block for the meeting with discounted rates (available until 13 April): <https://tinyurl.com/jrqmrs2>. If you call to make your reservation, make sure that the desk knows you are booking for the LOS Meeting and gives you our block rate. The Hampton's queen suites are slightly more expensive than the Cameron Motel but the hotel offers additional amenities, including breakfast and proximity to the meeting's programs, which will be in the hotel's Evangeline rooms. There are several other hotels in Jennings. For information/reviews about alternative lodging see: <https://tinyurl.com/ze6ldjs>. For Camping/RV options see: <https://tinyurl.com/jj7jbqz>. Nearby Lake Arthur hosts quaint Myer's Landing Campground, and, if looking for something different, there is the unique L'Banca Albergo (Bank Hotel). Please be aware that there is a car show in Jennings during the LOS weekend, so it is important to reserve your lodging as soon as possible. Nearby Lake Charles is hosting an airshow, education meeting, and other events during the LOS weekend, so many of those area hotels may be booked long in advance of our meeting (another reason LOS chose Jennings).

Please pre-register by 24 April 2017

Online registration link: <http://losbird.org/meetings.htm>

LOS SPRING MEETING

28-30 April 2017, Jennings

Friday, April 28th

Evangeline Room, Hampton Inn: 310 W. Fred & Ruth Zigler Memorial Dr., Jennings (888) 370-0981.

7:00-8:00 PM. Registration and Social. Dessert & coffee/BYOB.

8:00-8:30 PM. Welcome Members and Field Trips preview.

8:30-9:30 PM. Program: *West Texas Sky Island Birding - You're Invited!* by Cecilia M. Riley & Michael L. Gray.

Cecilia will introduce the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration and information about how to plan a trip to see other key birds of the region. Mike's exceptional photographs will accompany the program. Cecilia Riley served as Executive Director for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory during which time GCBO's permanent Lake Jackson home was completed. Cecilia is a native Texan, biologist, and avid bird watcher, who has spent her lifetime –both on the job and in her personal life conducting avian research and habitat conservation across the Americas. Since her retirement, Cecilia, along with her photographer husband Mike Gray have continued to pursue tropical forest protection and bird conservation with a renewed focus on South America where rapid loss of the world's most extensive forests is devastating to our planet's climate.

Saturday, April 29th

Join LOS members on Guided Field Trips. Trips are limited to 15 participants. *Please pre-register so that if needed, we can add additional trips or leaders to accommodate everyone.*

For those lodging at the Hampton Inn, early breakfast will begin at 5:15 AM to accommodate our early field trip departures. Bring lunch, water, bug spray, and walkie-talkies if you have them.

6:00 AM-4:00 PM. Cameron Parish-west. Trip will head directly to Holly Beach, then on to Peveto Woods Sanctuary. After lunch, the group will head eastward towards Cameron.

6:15 AM-4:00 PM. Cameron Parish Big Day will try to tally as many species as possible in Cameron Parish. Trip starts at Lacassine NWR headquarters, stopping at Lacassine, Cameron Prairie, and Sabine NWRs and various Cameron coastal sites.

8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Casual birding: Lacassine NWR Pool unit to Oak Grove. This is your chance to sleep in (sort of) and then bird leisurely towards the coast.

All Day Self-Guided. Pick up a map to the Self-Guided Tour Route to visit area birding sites at your leisure.

7:00-7:30 PM. Registration. Hampton Inn & Suites. BYOB. Mingle with LOS members in the hotel's lounge before dinner.

7:30-8:30 PM. Banquet in the Evangeline Room, dinner catered by Mike's **Seafood & Steak Restaurant of Jennings:**

Entrée options: \$20.00/person, choose from the following:

- ***Cajun Baked Catfish.***
- ***Tender Braised Beef Brisket.***
- ***Portobella & Spinach Penne Pasta Casserole.***

Meal served with two sides: Creamy Twice Baked Potato Casserole, Fresh Smothered Green Beans; includes Buttery Home Baked Rolls, and Sweet Iced Tea. Homemade dough pies by Emily Doucet. Coffee. BYOB.

Deadline for dinner registration is 24 April 2017

Online registration link: <http://losbird.org/meetings.htm>

8:30-10:00 PM. Program and Meeting. Following the program will be the presentation of the President's Award(s) and the George H. Lowery, Jr. Award, other agenda items to be announced, and the reading of the bird list.

Program: *An Accidental Big Year* by Neil Hayward. In 2013, Boston birder Neil Hayward suffered a devastating bout of the Big Year. The temporary insanity resulted in almost 250,000 miles of travel, taking him to the remote corners of this continent: Barrow in the frozen north; the Dry Tortugas, dangling off the Florida Keys to the south; Newfoundland, poking out to the east; and tiny Adak, adrift in the volcanic Aleutian chain of the west; and a place they call New Jersey. By the year's end, he'd netted 749 species of birds and set a new ABA Big Year record. In this talk, Neil will take a Big Year and apply cutting-edge high pressure technology and condense it into a Big Hour. Come hear about exotic birds, remote places, volcanoes, polar bears, Aleutian plumbing and more! Government health warning: Big Years can be contagious. High pressure technology not previously tested. Neil Hayward grew up near Oxford, England, where, at a young age, he first became obsessed with birds. He moved to the US in 2005 to head up the US operations of a biotechnology company. In 2011, he started a consulting career as owner of Cambridge Blue Consulting. Neil is currently the Field Trip Coordinator and a director of the Brookline Bird Club, and author of *Lost Among the Birds*, a memoir of his big year. He lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife Gerri, son Henry, and two cats, Sally and Khiva.

Sunday, April 30th

The Hampton Inn & Suites will have breakfast beginning at 6 AM for those staying at the hotel. *We tentatively offer two Sunday trips (if there is interest).*

6:30 AM-TBD. Mad dash to the coast to chase goodies found Friday or Saturday.

7:00 AM-noon. Area rice fields for shorebirds. Field trips email: donnaldittmann@gmail.com



REGISTER BY 24 April 2017 at losbird.org or return PRE-REGISTRATION FORM below

LOS 2017 SPRING MEETING, Jennings, Louisiana

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Number registering for meeting _____ @ \$10.00/person = \$ _____

Student registration only _____ @ \$ 5.00/person = \$ _____

RSVP Friday Evening: YES _____ NO _____

Number meals at banquet at The Hampton Inn & Suites (please choose entrée below):

_____ Baked Cajun Catfish @ \$20.00/person

_____ Braised Beef Brisket @ \$20.00/person

_____ Vegetarian Casserole @ \$20.00/person = \$ _____

Membership dues enclosed (see p. 7) = \$ _____

Donation = \$ _____

Total enclosed: = \$ _____

To pre-register for field trips (see pp. 3-4), email: donnaldittmann@gmail.com

Please complete form and mail with check payable to LOS to:

Judith O'Neale, 504 ~~Whitebark~~ Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508

(337) 981-1011 • jloneale@aol.com

LOS BIRD.ORG

