

LOS WINTER MEETING

26-28 January 2018

Alexandria

Please join us in Alexandria for our 2018 LOS Winter Meeting hosted by the Loose Alliance of Casual and/or Keen Birders of Central Louisiana. Our meeting facility will be the Louisiana Convention Center where we will meet either in the Emerald (Friday) or Diamond (Saturday) rooms. The Convention Center is next door to our base hotel, the Baymont Inn & Suites. Field trips will depart from the Baymont Inn & Suites parking lot.

Please pre-register by 19 January 2018

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

Friday, January 26th
Louisiana Convention Center, Emerald Room
2225 N. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria
(318) 445-6996

6:00 - 7:00 PM. Registration. Light snacks will be provided by the Loose Alliance of Casual and/or Keen Birders of Central Louisiana. You may bring your own favorite beverage(s); there will not be a Cash Bar on Friday evening.

7:00 - 7:15 PM. Welcome Members and Field Trips. There will be a Saturday field trip sign-up sheet. See next page for trip information and departure times.

7:15 - 8:30 PM. Program: A Canary in the Fracking Fields: An Obligate Riparian Songbird Provides Evidence of Surface Water Contamination by Dr. L. C. Marshall.

Dr. Leesia C. Marshall is an Assistant Professor and vertebrate ecologist at Louisiana State University-Alexandria. She specializes in avian behavioral ecology and stream ecology. For information about Dr. Marshall's student projects supported by LOS Grants see: http://losbird.org/news/1702_241_news.pdf

Saturday, January 27th
Baymont Inn & Suites
2301 N. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria

6:15 - 7:15 AM. Meet and depart for Saturday Field Trips. Join LOS leaders on

Guided Field Trips. Field trips will visit some of the area's favorite birding sites and eBird 'hotspots.' 295 species are recorded by eBird for Rapides Parish: <http://ebird.org/ebird/subnational2/US-LA-079?yr=all>. For those staying at the Baymont Inn & Suites, breakfast begins at 6 AM.

Note that trip departure times are staggered. Meet initially to check-in with the leader at the Baymont lobby at least 15 minutes in advance of the field trip departure time - we will then stage in the parking lot. If you were not able to sign-up for a field trip Friday evening, then make sure you arrive well in advance to let the leader know you'd like to join the trip – carpooling is advised. Bring lunch, water, bug spray, and walkie-talkies if you have them.

Field Trip destinations:

Pineywoods of Kisatchie N F, Evangeline Unit for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other pineywoods specialty species. Departs at 6:30 AM. After check-in, we will gather in the parking lot no later than 6:15 AM to allow for a prompt departure by 6:30 AM so that we can arrive before the woodpeckers leave their roost. Leader: Steve Shively.

Cheneyville Area. Trip should encounter a mix of waterfowl (including Sandhill Cranes) and land birds. eBird hotspot Cheneyville-Echo Road bar chart: <http://ebird.org/ebird/barchart?r=L727248&yr=all&m=>. Meet at 6:30 AM for a 6:45 AM departure. Leaders: Marty Floyd and Jim Johnson.

Lake Kincaid Dam (morning trip). Note: there is walking involved (about 2 miles round trip); it takes about 45 minutes to walk to and along a portion of the dam to the spillway where we will look for ducks, grebes, loons, pelicans, and cormorants. We will also look for passerines in nearby riparian areas. Meet at 7:00 AM for a departure by 7:15 AM. Trip ends 11:30 AM-noon. There is also the afternoon option for this trip (see next page). eBird bar graph: <http://ebird.org/ebird/barchart?r=L727291&yr=all&m=>. Leader: Jay Huner.

Catahoula NWR. This trip will likely work Duck Lake and adjacent woods/fields for a mix of the area's water and land birds. Meet at 7:15 AM for departure at 7:30 AM. Leader: Jonathan Clark.

Afternoon trip to Lake Kincaid Dam. See information for morning trip (previous page). Meet in Baymont lobby at 1:30 PM for a departure at 1:45 PM. Trip ends at sunset. Leader: Jay Huner.

Let's try to bolster the eBird site information for these central Louisiana birding areas and eBird hotspots!

Louisiana Convention Center, Diamond Room

2225 N. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria
(318) 445-6996

6:00 - 6:30 PM. Registration and Cash Bar.

6:30 - 7:30 PM. Dinner. Buffet catered by the Louisiana Convention Center. Homestyle Country Buffet - Baked Chicken or Meatloaf, Garden Salad (Ranch or Italian Dressing), Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Buttered Corn, Dinner Roll, and Peach Cobbler.

Entrée: \$25.00/person: Deadline for dinner registration is 19 January 2018.

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

7:30 - 9:00 PM. Program and Meeting.

Program: Development of a Gulf-wide Avian Monitoring Network by Dr. M. S. Woodrey. Dr. Mark S. Woodrey is an Assistant Research Professor and Avian Ecologist at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He also serves as the Research Coordinator at the NOAA/Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Moss Point, Mississippi. He has studied a variety of bird groups including intercontinental land bird migrants, winter forest birds, colonial beach-nesting birds, grassland birds, and breeding birds of bottomland hardwood forests. He coordinates the Grand Bay NERR's System-wide Monitoring Program; a national, standardized water quality and meteorological monitoring effort, and is involved in collaborative research projects focused on the ecology of estuarine fishes, effects of prescribed fire and sea level rise on coastal plant and animal communities, levels of mercury contamination in estuaries, and the nesting ecology of diamondback terrapins. The main goal of his research is to better understand the ecological relationships between the coastal flora and fauna to facilitate the informed and effective management and conservation of coastal ecosystems along the northern Gulf of Mexico. He received his B.S. (Zoology) and M.S. (Zoology) from Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. (Biology) from the University of Southern Mississippi.

His program will examine how birds are a conspicuous and remarkable natural resource of the Gulf of Mexico. Hundreds of species and millions of individual birds are supported throughout their annual life cycle by barrier islands, beaches, marshes, nearshore and offshore waters, and coastal forests. Although many avian monitoring projects have been implemented, almost all are short-term (e.g., graduate student projects of 2-5 years), of limited geographic scope (i.e., most are local-scale efforts), or a combination of both. Thus, scientists and conservationists

lack a comprehensive and coordinated approach to monitoring avian resources across the northern Gulf of Mexico, a critical need that was highlighted during and after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network (GoMAMN) was formed to define a vision and process for developing the role of bird monitoring in achieving integrated, efficient, and effective Gulf of Mexico management and recovery of impacted avian species.

Following the program, LOS Vice President Delaina LeBlanc will read the bird list to record members' sightings during their field adventures on Saturday. We will confirm or improvise Sunday field trips if there is interest.

Sunday, January 28th

If determined that there is adequate interest to do so at the Saturday evening meeting, then we will repeat Saturday's trip to the **Pineywoods of Kisatchie NF, Evangeline Unit** for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other pineywoods specialty species such as Bachman's Sparrow. Trip would depart promptly at 6:30 AM to make sure we arrive at the roost before the woodpeckers depart. Leader: Steve Shively.

Or...possibly we may improvise trips to chase interesting birds found during Saturday's trips. Of course, you can also bird on your own on your way home.

Alexandria Lodging

The Baymont Inn & Suites is our base hotel: 2301 N. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303. A room block is available: call 318-619-3300 and use the **group code LOS**. If you call during the day you can ask for Amanda Anderson. The Baymont is next door to the **Alexandria Convention Center**, 2225 N. MacArthur Drive.

Other nearby Alexandria accommodations include:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites; 2340 N. MacArthur Dr.; 318-487-9898

Candlewood Suites; 2344 N. MacArthur Dr.; 318-427-9020

Best Western of Alexandria; 720 N. MacArthur Drive; 318-445-5530

Quality Inn; 3010 N. MacArthur Drive; 318-445-6757

Camping/RV sites are available at Indian Creek State Park.

Pre-registration Form
LOS 2018 Winter Meeting January 26-28
Louisiana Convention Center, 2225 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

Number registering for Saturday's dinner _____ @ \$25.00/person= \$ _____

Donation _____ =\$ _____

Membership Dues enclosed _____ =\$ _____

Total enclosed=\$ _____

Please make check payable to LOS, and mail to: Judith O'Neale,
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jloneale@aol.com