

## The LOS Field Trip Series

LOS Members can sign-up for trips by sending an email request to: [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com). Trip registrations will be on a first-received email basis; Melissa will confirm your registration, so if you don't hear back then check the spelling of her email address. The trip leader will contact you before the trip to review details. If you register and are a no-show then you will not be allowed to register in the future. Please make sure you cancel at least 24 hours in advance so that your space may be filled by someone on the Wait List. Also, please do not bring unregistered guests. Access to any Louisiana Wildlife Management Area (WMA) requires a Basic Hunting or Fishing License OR a WMA Access Permit. So, please ensure that you have one if your field trip visits a WMA (or want to support LDWF!): <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wmas-refuges-and-conservation-areas>. Watch the LOS Website for additional offerings, changes to listed trips, or pop-up trips. If you would like to lead a LOS field trip, or suggest a destination for a field trip, then email Melissa.

### September 2024

- ☀ Fall Hawk Watch at Smith Point, Texas, with David Booth. 14 September. Annually, from August 15 to November 30, Hawk Watches are held daily at the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area where there is a 30 foot tower for anyone to use. This is one of the great spectacles in nature – a sky full of raptors soaring toward Central and South America. Galveston Bay is a natural funnel point for these southbound raptors. Last year we saw thousands of migrating raptors in a couple of hours. The tower is staffed daily from 8 am to 4 pm. The staff is very helpful in the identification of soaring raptors.

This will be a combined trip with the Gulf Coast Bird Club. No reservations needed for this one. Just meet us in Lake Charles for a 7 am departure at the Hancock Whitney Bank parking lot at 3401 Ryan Street. Alternately, you can meet us at the Hawkwatch Tower at 9 am. The tower is near the end of Smithpoint Road to the left (follow the WMA signs). The tower location is about 2 hours from Lake Charles. We will observe migrating raptors and check some nearby areas for Oystercatchers and other shorebirds and waders and then return to Lake Charles, stopping in Beaumont for a late lunch. Following the raptor observation period, participants may also bird Anahuac NWR which is just down the road.

- ☀ Empidonax Flycatchers and other migrants in SWLA with James Smithers. 21 September. Meet in the parking lot of Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center no later than 6:45am. We will be birding the east side of Cameron parish in hopes to find Empidonax flycatchers and September migrant warblers including Mourning and Canada Warblers. We will make our way to the coast and bird several spots including Oak Grove Sanctuary, Willow Island, and Hollister Chenier (pending permission). Bugs can be unpredictable in September so please dress with long pants and have a long sleeved shirt available. It would also be good to bring a bug net to wear over your head in case it is buggy. Lunch options on the east side include Anchors Up Grill and Darla K Food Mart. I will have water available for the group. If the east side is not producing birds for us we may venture to the west side of Cameron Parish. The toll to take the ferry over is \$1.00 if we decide to go that route. Up to 10 participants. Sign-up begins 9 September at 8:00am.
- ☀ Birding Grand Isle with Kathy Rhodes. 27-29 September. This will be a laid back, friendly weekend based out of a nice beach house on the island. You can bird with Kathy or own your own. Beginners are welcome, and Kathy will take good care of you. There are two bedrooms with two queen sized beds/baths and one bunkroom with three bunkbeds and a bath. First come first serve on choice of rooms. Cost is only \$50 per night. All meals are on your own. More details concerning locations and target species will be given out to registered participants. Payment must be made in advance to the LOS treasurer to hold your room. Final registration and bed assignments will be determined to best accommodate the participants. Up to 8 participants. Registration opens 13 September at 8am.

### October 2024

- ☀ North-central and Northwest Parish Bird Blitz with David Booth. 4-7 October. This is another installment in the series of Bird Blitz trips to help folks find and observe birds in all 64 Louisiana Parishes. We will be based in Ruston, La and head out Saturday, Sunday and Monday to canvas a number of Parishes each day.

Target Parishes for this trip include: Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Union, Lincoln, Bienville, Grant, and Jackson Parishes. We will be focused on Fall migrating species and developing parish bird lists. This is a fast way to build your parish lists. We will be stopping at out of the way locations as well as hot-spots where we can. There will not be any long walks planned. It will be mostly car birding. Open only to LOS members. Contact David Booth if you are interested in knowing more. He can be reached at 337-526-0837 or [david@boothenvironmental.com](mailto:david@boothenvironmental.com). Plans are subject to change as the birds or weather dictate. Saturday Starting Point: Ruston. Monday Ending Point: Butterfly Gardens near Pollock. Lodging: The Ruston Hampton Inn will be our home base and starting point each day. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations for accommodations in Ruston or somewhere nearby. Participants may stay at any hotel of choice. Please arrive the night of October 4<sup>th</sup>. The beginning birding site on Saturday is planned to be Lake Bisteneau State Park near Bossier, La in the event you are coming from Shreveport area, just plan to meet us there about 8 am. Up to 12 participants. Registration will open on September 18th at 8 am.

- ☀ Birding in Acadians with Katie Barnes. 12 October. Interested in casual fall birding in Acadiana? Birders of all experience levels are welcome to join a morning at Acadiana Nature Station and Moore Park with trip leader Katie Barnes. Participants will meet at the Acadiana Nature Station Trailhead at 7:00am. Please dress appropriately for traversing several miles on uneven terrain. Sturdy footwear is a must. Water and snacks are encouraged for the morning adventure. Come with desired target birds and we will see what we can find! The ultimate goal is to have fun and enjoy our local birds! Following our field trip, participants are welcome to join for lunch in Lafayette as a group (location to be determined). For more information, please email Katie Barnes at [nuthatch829@gmail.com](mailto:nuthatch829@gmail.com). Up to 12 participants. Registration will open on September 27th at 8 am.
- ☀ LOS Fall Meeting Field Trips with James Smithers and David Booth. 25-26 October. See details on page 2. Sign-up for fall meeting trips will be in-person at Friday (25 October) night's meeting.