

## 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.

### March, 2024

- ✿ **Sandy Hollow WMA with Jane Patterson.** 30 March. Come bird with Jane! Jane Patterson will lead LOS members to the Sandy Hollow WMA to explore this nice upland habitat in Tangipahoa Parish North-east of Amite, La. Jane is the No. 1 birder for that hot spot with 84 species. This 4,500 acre area is mostly rolling, piney hills with hardwoods in a few creek bottoms. Jane says that it is one of the very best places in SE Louisiana for Bachman's Sparrow. There are three tracts. The LDWF manages this area for upland game birds such as quail and dove. It is a valuable research area for the LDWF. What a great way to explore Tangipahoa Parish! A WMA map may be seen here: [https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Conservation/WMA's Refuges Conservation Areas/Files/Sandy\\_Hollow.pdf](https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Conservation/WMA%20Refuges%20Conservation%20Areas/Files/Sandy_Hollow.pdf). Starting and ending points will be determined and will be sent out to all registered participants. Bring your binoculars and plenty of water and snacks for a day trip. There will be some walking so boots, hat, bug spray and the usual to keep you comfortable as may be needed. **Registration opens on 8 March at 8am through Melissa Weaver at [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com). Maximum number of participants is: 12.**

### April, 2024

- ✿ **"No Man's Land" Western Parishes Tour with David Booth.** 5-7 April. Come explore five under-birded western parishes for a three days. This area is known historically as "No Man's Land" because it was dually claimed by the Spanish and the US for a number of years. We will be focused on finding spring migrants and building parish bird lists. We will be stopping at out of the way locations as well as hot-spots. There will not be any long walks planned. It will be mostly car birding. 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). Trip will begin and end in Natchitoches. Lodging will be in a nice home in the downtown Natchitoches area. There are two king beds, two queen beds, two twin XL beds upstairs and a pull out couch bed. All meals will be on your own. Bring your drinks and snacks for the field. Dinners will be in Natchitoches at some of the many restaurants. **Registration through Melissa Weaver will open on 8 March. Maximum number of participants: 8.**

Plans are subject to changes which may be needed as the birds or weather dictate.

**Itinerary, Day One (April 5<sup>th</sup>):** We will bird through Vernon, Natchitoches, and Sabine parishes in a large loop. We will be starting from the town of Leesville. We will meet at noon at the Market Basket parking lot. We will try for the Greater Roadrunner, Wild Turkey, Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other piney woods birds as well as search open fields lake sides and other terrain. We will end at our trip home in Natchitoches and have a group dinner about 7 pm. For anyone arriving late, please try to join us for the dinner.

**Day Two (April 6<sup>th</sup>):** We start from Natchitoches and drive up I-49 to spots in Red River Parish, DeSoto Parish, and Caddo Parish. Highlights include Red River NWR, Bayou Pierre WMA, and the locks along the Red River.

**Day Three:** We will bird the remaining areas around the western parishes picking up more migrants and filling in gaps in our parish lists. We will return to Natchitoches around noon and disband there to return home.

**Cost:** The housing cost is \$150 per person total for two nights. Costs should be paid in advance to LOS treasurer Mark Pethke via check or electronically. A reservation with Melissa will not be confirmed without payment to Mark.

✿ **Southeast Texas Gulf Coast with Charlie Lyon and Melissa Weaver.** 6-7 April. Explore the coast of SE TX for a plethora of passerines and shorebirds. Smith Oaks Sanctuary has potential for superb early spring migrant birding and if you have never experienced Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, then you are in for a treat watching thousands of various shorebirds concentrated in one area. We will meet at 7 am on Saturday at the Hampton Inn in Winnie and carpool to designated sites for the day. Dinner will be at Tia Juanita's Fish Camp in Winnie. We will meet again at 7 am on Sunday at the Hampton Inn and everyone will drive their own vehicles to Rollover Pass and Bolivar Flats. Amendments to this schedule are possible at a moments notice if any rarities appear in the area. Recommended lodging in Winnie, Texas. **Registration opens 8 March at 8:00 am through [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com) Maximum number of participants: 8.**

✿ **LOS Spring Meeting Field Trips.** 27, April. Please see field trip details on page 2.

### April, 2024

✿ **Dauphin Island Weekend with Marybeth Lima and Kathy Rhodes.** 2-5 May. Come explore Dauphin Island, Alabama, for three days with two great trip leaders. Dauphin Island is well known as a great migrant trap for both the spring and fall. There are many well-known spots to enjoy the birds, and Marybeth and Kathy will guide you to all of them. Marybeth and Kathy are long time island birders and know the island well. Kathy has even written a guide to birding the island, which will be provided to all participants. **Registration opens 22 March at 8:00am through [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com) Maximum number of participants: 12.**

**Starting and ending points:** Rental Camp on Dauphin Island. Address and other information will be provided to approved participants. Lodging will be in a VRBO camp with ample bedding spaces. Participants must be willing to share a room. Two rooms have king beds and are perfect for couples. **Cost:** Estimated housing cost for three nights is a total of \$220 per person. Final cost may vary depending on number of participants. Estimated cost should be paid in advance to LOS treasurer Mark Pethke via check or electronically. A reservation with Melissa will not receive final confirmation without payment to Mark. Daily plans subject to change based on weather and other conditions.