

## 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.

Trips often fill up via email within the first 5 or 10 minutes of the opening registration date; to ensure a spot, please sign up quickly and not before the listed date and time. **Contact Melissa Weaver at [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com)** to register.

### March 2025

**Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge - Saturday, 29 March with LOS Vice-President Paul Schaub.** Start time 8:00 am. Join Paul Schaub, Terrebonne bird club President and LOS vice-president to bird the Bayou Teche NWR located in St. Mary Parish. The 12,000 acre refuge was established in 2001 and consists of six separate units with trails. It is composed of bottomland hardwoods laced with bayous and canals. The refuge consists of lands that are important to the coastal subpopulation of the Louisiana black bear. It also provides excellent habitat for wading birds, neotropical songbirds, waterfowl, reptiles, and amphibians. Public use opportunities include bird watching, hiking, wildlife photography, fishing, paddling, environmental education and hunting. Meeting place will be Mr. D's travel center, 1401 Northwest Blvd in Franklin, LA. Please bring extra shoes, bug spray, binocs, and camera (optional). We will bird several trails. Bathroom stop nearby if needed. **10 participants max. Registration for this trip opens via email 8:00 am, 15 March.**

**Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge – Saturday, 29 March with John Nelson.** Start time 8:00 am. Half-day trip. Join John Nelson to explore the largest urban National Wildlife Refuge in the lower 48 states! Although we will be concentrating on spring migrants and a wading bird rookery, there are over 26,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, swamp and marsh habitats in Bayou Sauvage to play in. Meet at the Ridge Trail, 20876 Chef Menteur Hwy, New Orleans, LA 70129, located on US 90 (Chef Menteur Highway) across from Recovery Road in New Orleans East. Exit I-510, go left on Hwy 90, about 4 miles to the parking area on the left. There are bathrooms located beside the Ridge Trail parking lot. From here we may go to different parts of the refuge depending on migratory conditions. Bring binoculars, bug spray, rain gear, sunscreen and refreshments. If you have a scope, bring it. There will be some walking and levee climbing so boots are recommended. **12 participants max. Registration for this trip opens via email 8:00 am, 15 March.**

### April 2025

**Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve - Saturday, 5 April with Harriett Pooler and Lawrence Datnoff.** Start time 7:30 am. Join Harriett and Lawrence for a half day visit to Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve, part of The Nature Conservancy's Louisiana Pine Wetland Mitigation Banks in Abita Springs. The Preserve has endangered (in Louisiana) Longleaf pine trees and unique plants including the carnivorous pitcher plant which blooms in April, as

well as the Bachman's Fox Squirrel which is only found in the Florida Parishes. Among birders, it is best known as a place to see the elusive Bachman Sparrow, a year-round resident. Up to 139 species of wrens, warblers, sparrows, and other birds have been recorded at the Preserve. The Preserve has a nice wooden boardwalk that turns into a dirt trail which could be muddy if there has been recent rain so wearing waterproof shoes is best. Bring insect repellent and water. There are no bathrooms/port-o-lets on the property. The address is LA435, Entrance across from Green Street, Abita Springs, LA. From I-12 at the Abita Springs/Mandeville Exit (Exit 65.) go north on LA Hwy 59 about 5 miles to the town of Abita Springs. At the traffic circle, take the Level St. exit (1/2 around the circle) which will curve left and turn into LA Hwy 435. The Abita preserve is approximately 4.5 miles from the traffic circle, just past 2 closely-spaced bridges. The entrance to the preserve is on the left across from Green Street. **15 participants max. Registration for this trip opens via email 8:00 am, 22 March.**

**Sherburne WMA, Whiskey Bay Road - Friday, 18 April with Cheryl Huner and Mike Musumeche.** Start time 7:00 am; ends by 3:00 pm. Meet at Atchafalaya Welcome Center, Exit 121 off I-10E (1908 Atchafalaya River Hwy, Breaux Bridge, LA) where we will stretch, talk strategy, then caravan to Whiskey Bay Road. Bring sack lunch, water, bug repellent, and one of the following: regular fishing license, hunting license, or Wild Louisiana Stamp; any one will be required. With good weather condition, we should have lots of spring migrants along with plenty of resident species. **10 participants max. Registration for this trip opens via email 8:00 am, 5 April.**

**LOS Spring Meeting Field Trips - Saturday, 26 April.** See page two for details. Participants must sign up for the spring meeting field trips after Friday night's meeting.

### May 2025

**Red River National Wildlife Refuge - Saturday, 3 May with Charlie Lyon and Melissa Weaver.** Start time 7:00 am. Come for a morning bird walk through the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Bossier Parish. Migrant warblers, flycatchers and a wide diversity of other potential spring migrants have historically been plentiful in early May. There are several trails to explore along the Red River and Lake Caroline and depending on the desires of the group, we can bird for 2-3 hours or until noon. We will meet in the refuge Headquarters parking lot.. Bring water, snacks, bug spray, protective coverings, sunscreen and anything else you may need for a comfortable hike such as waterproof boots as trails can be wet. Bathrooms are available in the HQ building. Address is 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City. **15 participants max. Registration for this trip opens via email 8:00 am, 19 April.**

Have an idea for an LOS field trip? Let us know! Wanna focus on raptors? Sparrows? Shorebirds? Waterfowl? Or (\*gulp\*)...gulls?? Wanna hit some specific parishes? Or somewhere out of state? All you have to do is let us know! Email any current officer or board member with your request, and we'll get on it!

Or.....do you know the birds of your area really well? YOU could lead an LOS field trip! Wanna focus on youth? New birders? Birders with limited mobility? Anybody at all? We can make that happen, too! Just let us know you'd like to volunteer your time, and we'll advertise your trip in LOS News, LABIRD, and the LOS Facebook page.