

LOS SPRING MEETING

Hackberry, Louisiana

25 - 26 April, 2025

It's time to take flight down to Cameron Parish for our Spring 2025 Meeting! As usual, we will be based in the town of Hackberry on the west side of the Calcasieu River, about 25 minutes from the coast. Our host hotel will again be the MainStay Suites Hackberry Sportsman's Lodge. A room block is available through 4 April, so book promptly to make sure you get a room at the LOS discounted rate of \$96/night. Meetings will take place at the "old" Hackberry Community Center (see address below). Meeting registration is \$15 online at www.losbird.org.

Events for Friday, 25 April 2024: **Hackberry Community Center**

986 Main Street, Hackberry, LA 70645
(337) 762-9313

6:30 - 7:00 PM. Registration. Sandwiches provided by Cameron Parish Tourist Commission and Brown's Grocery. Door prizes.

7:00 PM. Welcome Members and Field Trip announcements.

7:15 - 8:00 PM. Program: "Peveto Woods Migratory Bird Sanctuary" by Dave Patton.

Peveto Woods has been a Louisiana birding destination since the 1950's, and birders now visit from around the country. In the 1980's, beach house development threatened to destroy the habitat. Action was taken by the Baton Rouge Audubon Society and a group of generous donors to create the sanctuary. The program looks at the acquisitions, donors, and volunteers that have saved the sanctuary. We also look at some of the birds and animals that make it a special place.

Dave Patton and his wife Sue, have been married 48 years and live in Lafayette. Dave began birding in 1987, after volunteering to help with the Lafayette CBC. He joined LOS and served as president from 1995-97. In 2008, his friend, Baton Rouge Audubon Society president Harriet Pooler, asked if he would manage Peveto Woods Sanctuary which included a seat on the board. Being his favorite place to bird, he accepted and is still serving to keep it a special place for birds and birders. He also enjoys insects and gardening and serves on the board for Acadiana Native Plant Project

Events for Saturday, 26 April, 2024:

Morning Field trips: Field trip reservations will be made Friday night at the meeting. PLEASE be sure to give your cell phone number and your eBird user name to your trip leader. Remember to top-off your fuel tank before any field trip! Please bring along your own disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer; if a scope is shared then make sure that it is wiped down after each use. If you are feeling ill, then PLEASE stay home.

West side-only trip - Trip Leaders are LOS board members Mark Pethke and Harriett Pooler. Meet in the parking lot of the MainStay Suites Hackberry Sportsman's Lodge by no later than 6:45AM. We will bird several locations all on the west side of Calcasieu Ship Channel, including as much of the Sabine NWR (Blue Goose Trail, Wetland Walkway, etc.) as may be open, Peveto Woods, the Holly Beach area, Deep Bayou Road, and other locations. Bathrooms available along the route. Limited to 15 participants.

Two East side-only trips - Trip Leaders are LOS President James Smithers and Vice-President Paul Schaub with Deanna and Gordon Griggs. Both will meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center (about 2 miles north of Pintail Wildlife Drive) at 7:15AM. Each group will bird the same areas at different times to avoid crowded birding. We will bird several good spots like Cameron Prairie NWR, Rockefeller Refuge, Willow Island, Broussard Beach and Rutherford Beach/Road, cross the ferry (westbound fee is \$1.00 per vehicle), and bird a few locations on the West side like Holly Beach area and Peveto Woods. Limited to 15 participants.

West Calcasieu trip. Trip leader is David Booth. Note this is a different trip with different locations than the “West side-only” trip. Leave hotel 15 min after West side trip leaves (7:00am, our departure). Will visit a half dozen sites and terminate in the Sulphur area. Sites to include: Intercoastal Park, Charlie Moss Rd, Ellis Moss Rd, Fabacher Rd, Vinton Wastewater Pond, Cypress Swamp, Private Farm, Private Bird Sanctuary. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Ample Bathrooms available along route. Will be a full day wrapping up in late afternoon in Sulphur area for your return to Hotel. Limited to 15 participants.

Hackberry Community Center

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6:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcome and Registration.

7:00 - 7:30 PM. Dinner. Dinner is \$15/person and only available through pre-registration. Enjoy chicken fettucine, green beans or sweet peas, sliced french bread, and apple or peach cobbler with iced tea or water. If you desire a special diet meal, you are welcome to bring your own. You may also BYOB.



Deadline for dinner reservation is 14 April, 2025.

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

7:30 - 9:00 PM Program: “Louisiana Nightjar Monitoring” by Rob Dobbs.

The nightjars and their allies represent one of the most poorly known bird families in the world, and in Louisiana. Rob will provide an overview of the natural history of these birds, emphasizing Louisiana species, information gaps, population trends, and data needs. Rob will introduce a new monitoring effort in the state, covering details of the

survey protocol and logistical challenges of conducting surveys, and invite volunteer participation in upcoming survey efforts.

Robert Dobbs is the nongame avian ecologist for the Wildlife Diversity Program, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, where he works to identify the status and distributions, habitat associations, and factors limiting populations of bird species of greatest conservation need, and to facilitate management actions and research and monitoring programs for their benefit. Rob is an avid birder in his free time and active in the birding community, particularly through the Louisiana Ornithological Society. He is also Chair of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee and resides in Lafayette.

Spring Meeting Lodging Information:

LOS has reserved a block of rooms at the MainStay Suites Hackberry Sportsman Lodge for **\$96.00/night plus taxes/fees if BOTH nights are booked**. That includes King and Double suites equipped with a kitchenette. Single night rates will be higher and not secured by LOS. Rates are subject to applicable state & local taxes. NOTE: The room block will be held until **4 April, 2025**, Register by phone at 337-762-3128. Breakfast is no longer served. *Brown's Market @ 620 Main Street opens at 5am and has a hot breakfast line.* Directions to hotel: from I-10: Take Sulphur exit 20 from I-10 to Hwy. 27/Ruth Street. Go south toward Cameron approximately 20 miles to Hackberry. In Hackberry, Hwy. 27 becomes Main Street and the Mainstay Suites Hotel is located at 700 Main Street on the right (between Ellender and Devalle).