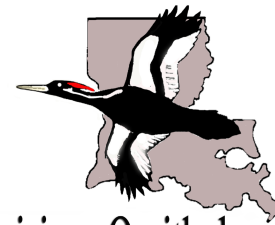


LOS NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE *Louisiana Ornithological Society*

LOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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LOS WINTER MEETING

25-27 January 2019

Lake Charles

Join us in Lake Charles for our 2019 Winter Meeting. This meeting is hosted by the Gulf Coast Bird Club.

Friday, January 25th

McNeese State University, Lake Charles

Gayle Hall, Room 104, 4380 Ryan Street

(ample parking behind the building)

2:00 - 5:00 PM. Bird Photography Workshop Part 1 by Chuck Cantrell. Indoor session will consist of an introductory lecture that will discuss examples of various birding and outdoor photographs. Saturday's session will be in the field with the regularly-planned field trips* and on your own as needed. (Possible duck blind photo opportunity).

6:00 - 7:00 PM. Registration. Light snacks, maps, local information will be provided. Silent auction bidding opens: bid early, bid often (see p. 3 for prints). Door prizes. Members will sign-up for Saturday field trips:

- Calcasieu Parish Birding Hotspots
- Cameron Prairie Birding Hotspot
- Access to Hotspots on private property
- * Photography from duck blinds for workshop participants

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

7:15 - 8:00 PM. Program: "Population dynamics of upland game birds: Prairie-chickens" by Dr. Eddie K. Lyons.

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Dr. Lyons completed his Ph.D at Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas) in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. He has a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Biology from Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. His research focus while in graduate school was population dynamics of upland game birds, but he has since shifted his focus to southwest Louisiana, where he investigates wildlife and habitats that benefit sportsmen and conservationists of this area. His research has included species of concern such as alligator snapping turtles, colonial wading birds, and the Louisiana Pine



LOS PUBLICATIONS

LOS News

Editor: **Donna L. Dittmann**
Museum of Natural Science,
119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge,
LA 70803; 225-642-5763
donnaldittmann@gmail.com

Issue submission deadlines:

Spring: 1 February
Fall: 1 August
Winter: 1 November

Journal of Louisiana Ornithology

Editor: **Robert C. Dobbs**
USGS Wetland & Aquatic Research
Center, 700 Cajundome Blvd.,
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rcdobbs@gmail.com

LBRC Newsletter

Editor: **Donna L. Dittmann**
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LOS WEBSITE

LOS Webmaster:

David J. L'Hoste
DJL@DJLphoto.com

The LOS website currently has space for photographs, field notes, identification discussions, and general messages regarding the birding activities of LOS members. Fine quality photographs are solicited for the BIRDS OF LOUISIANA webpage. For information regarding graphical submissions, please send an email.

LBRC Webmaster:

Paul E. Conover
zoiseaux@lusfiber.net

Snake, as well as impacts of agricultural practices on waterfowl. His talk will discuss his graduate research on prairie-chickens.

Saturday, January 26th

7:00 AM. Field trips. Meet in the parking lot of Courtyard by Marriott. Snack bags and water will be provided by the GCBC. Bring your lunch and drinks.

McNeese State University, Lake Charles
Gayle Hall, Room 104, 4380 Ryan Street
(ample parking behind the building)

2:00 - 5:00 PM. Bird Photography Workshop Part 2.

Submission and evaluation of weekend photos by the group in a workshop setting. Also taught by Chuck Cantrell.

5:30 - 6:00 PM. Registration and Silent Auction continues.

6:00 - 7:00 PM. Dinner. Entrée is \$16.00/person:

Chicken & Sausage Gumbo, Rice, Tossed Salad, Shrimp Jambalaya, Veggie Medley, Bread, and Dessert.

Deadline for dinner registration is January 21st.

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

7:00 PM. Meeting and Program: Welcome and updates; silent auction bidding closes.

Program: "How Understanding Molt Makes You a Better Birder" by Dr. Erik I. Johnson.

Dr. Johnson joined Audubon Louisiana in April 2011 as a Conservation Biologist for the Mississippi Flyway and Gulf Coast Initiative and now is the Director of Bird Conservation. Now friends with most LOS members, Erik is active in Louisiana's birding community and serves as Louisiana's Christmas Bird Count regional editor, a Member of Louisiana's Bird Records Committee and Director of the Louisiana Bird Observatory. His talk will examine how birders can benefit from paying closer attention to a bird's plumage. Feathers give birds their beauty, but to maintain this beauty, these feathers need to be replaced from time to time. Molting, or the scheduled replacement of feathers, is one of three critically important life phases that birds experience (breeding and migration are the other two), but the least understood by ornithologists and birders. Erik, author of "*Molt in Neotropical Birds: Life History and Aging Criteria*" will provide a presentation that demystifies the process of molt in birds. Understanding this process helps provide new discoveries into the lives of birds, and makes us better birders by knowing how and when plumages change, and why.



Calling of the bird list: We will read the bird list to tally meeting attendees' sightings during their field adventures in Calcasieu Parish and adjacent parishes on Friday and Saturday.

Silent auction concludes; prints awarded to top bids. Door prizes.

Winter meeting will be based at the:

THE COURTYARD by MARRIOTT

2995 L'Auberge Boulevard, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Contact: [855-516-1090](tel:855-516-1090). Mention LOS to get a rate of \$119/night.

Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state & local taxes of 14.75%. LOS rate reservation deadline cut-off date is January 11th, 2019. The no-show fee is one night's room & tax charge. Check-in time of 3:00 PM. Check-out time of 12:00 PM.

Other lodging is available within minutes of the THE COURTYARD by MARRIOTT.

RV options include:

Bayou Oaks RV Park, 3403 Broad Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, 337-602-6043 <http://www.bayouoaksvrpark.com/index.html> 6.3 miles 10 min. (I-210 to Ryan Street exit)

Burton Coliseum (near airport) Administrative Office, 7001 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles, LA 70607, (337) 721-4090, RV Sites available 3.3 miles/about 7 minutes from Gayle Hall.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE DINNER & MEETING BY January 21st.

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

See you in Lake Charles!

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

We are trying something new!
At the Winter Meeting three prints will be offered for silent auction on Friday evening with highest bid taking home the lovely print at the end of the meeting.



Randy McGowen 1984 LA Stamp & print



Roger Tory Peterson print



Donna L. Dittmann LOS 70th design

President's Message

Hello Members. Our 2018 Annual Fall Meeting took place at Cameron on 26-28 October with beautiful weather and plenty of birds. The Saturday list total for Cameron Parish was about 165 species, highlighted by Wood Stork, Ferruginous Hawk, and Western Kingbird. The "bird of the weekend" was a Harris's Hawk on Sunday between Cameron and Creole. It's impossible to thank all parties involved in the team effort that goes into organizing our meetings, but I would like to extend special thanks to our Friday evening speaker, Paige Byerly, and to VP Delaina LeBlanc for presiding in my stead at the Friday evening general meeting and Board Meeting and for volunteering to give the Saturday evening program. Cyndi Sellers, our "local Cameron coordinator," once again had everything running smoothly on Friday and Saturday nights. We express our appreciation to the Cameron Parish Tourist Commission for providing the Friday night refreshments, to the First Baptist

Church for making their facilities available, and to local landowners who allowed access for birding. Other items on the Saturday night agenda included annual elections- congratulations to all of our current Officers and Board Member who were re-elected to another term! Thanks to Past President Marty Floyd for leading the nominating committee. Although our membership is on the increase, I remain very concerned with meeting attendance, which seems to be trending downward. Please strongly consider supporting the organization by attending our upcoming meetings. The 2019 Winter Meeting will be held in Lake Charles 25-27 January and should be fantastic thanks to our local partner The Gulf Coast Bird Club. The location of the 2019 Spring Meeting on 26-28 April remains undetermined due to the looming possibility of a sudden surge of LNG plant construction at Cameron, which is anticipated to result in shortages of lodging in the area. The LOS Board will be monitoring the situation and will announce a decision on the spring meeting location at the winter meeting. Options being considered in/near Cameron Parish include Hackberry, Sulphur, and Lake Charles, but a change to Grand Isle is not out of the question.

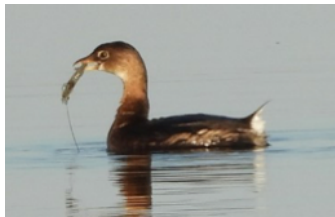
—*Steven W. Cardiff*

LOS Fall Meeting Field Trip Summaries

(Note: eBird checklist links follow for each general locality referenced)

Cameron Field Trip with Ken and Joelle

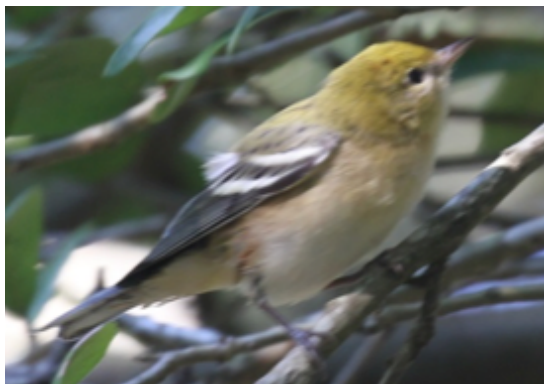
Our group of 9 to 11 started out on a beautiful fall day wearing fleece (!) and headed behind the courthouse. With the exception of Gadwall, a few Blue-winged Teal, and a couple of Mottled Ducks, duck diversity and numbers were mostly absent. With the lack of ducks, we were thrilled that



all got views of three flying American Bitterns and enough Marsh Wrens to satisfy everyone. The keen eyes of James

Bozeman and Annette Daughdrill gave us nice looks and photos of Nelson's Sparrow: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527069>. On to East Jetty (sadly we all knew that we would probably never return), finding most of the usual suspects

along with a nice Reddish Egret, Marbled Godwits, Franklin's Gulls, and three Seaside Sparrows: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527084>. The drive to Holly Beach and beyond yielded Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, Crested Caracaras, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, the normal loafing gulls and terns along with a lump in the sand, which Terri Skelton pointed out turned into a Piping Plover, but missed Snowy Plovers as reported by the Field Guides group. Ken and Bob Reed from Alabama searched in vain



for that Snowy! We observed one very sad Ruby-crowned Kinglet struggling in the shrubbery alongside the road. We all hoped that it would make it: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527090>, <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527095>; <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527106>. Our next stop was a much needed lunch break in Johnsons Bayou for shrimp po-boys with cheese (a little weird for a New Orleanian). Then on to Peveto, which we had heard from Rosemary Seidler was pretty good. The parking lot was full so we

parked by the port-o-let and immediately found a mulberry tree hopping with warblers: Northern Parula, Magnolia, Tennessee, and Prairie warblers. Also, found a Philadelphia Vireo. We finished with 9 species of warbler including our prized first year female Bay-breasted: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527110>. Back across the ferry and on to Willow Island which was a little slow but we added a nice Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hooded Warbler, and an unknown Empid: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527172>. On our late return to Cameron, "eagle-eyed" Linda Stewart-Knight screamed "Stop! Turn around!" With a screech of brakes and a 180 degree turn we pulled off of the road to view a tree with an Osprey perched on one side, a Merlin on the top right and a Loggerhead Shrike close-by: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49527119>. What a finish to a fantastic day of birding with a wonderful group of fellow birders. The day total was around 92 species! Ken and I thank Malise Prieto for compiling all of these eBird lists and for our wonderful group of participants who shared their spotting abilities and their love of birding with us. Photos are courtesy of Annette Daughdrill (Pied-billed Grebe) and Ken Harris (Nelson's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, and Bay-breasted Warbler).

—*Joelle Finley & Ken Harris*

Cameron Field Trip with Marty

The field trip to the western part of Cameron Parish had 8 participants at the start. We began by stopping at the wooded chenier on the north side of Hwy. 82. The area is owned by Apache Corporation who has graciously allowed LOS to enter the site. The day started off fairly slow with only a few species observed. However, a Red-breasted Nuthatch near the gate put on quite a show allowing photographs (one left by Larry Raymond). Monarchs were in migration – we saw over 80 just west of Holly Beach in the saltcedar (Tamarix) and over 20 at the property gate. Later observers to the site had better luck on bird species: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49557971>. Our next stop was at Peveto Woods, where we spent 1.5 hours tallying at least 34 species, but not much on the short section of beach. We had good counts of butterflies: Cloudless Sulphur, Gulf Fritillary (including caterpillars on passionflower), Phaon Crescents, Common Buckeyes, Monarchs, Long-tailed Skippers, and a Dun Skipper: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49516108>.



A few observers headed off to different areas and the remainder of our group continued to the Sabine River by the bridge to Texas. The Cliff Swallows had left but the empty nests remained there. Grackles and starlings attempted to block traffic noise on the bridge, while Neotropic Cormorants and pelicans patrolled the river. Because of the difficulty of access to the Lighthouse, we skipped this site and backtracked through Johnson Bayou and back to the Cameron ferry. By then everyone had left so I continued on to the East Jetty observation tower. Hopefully this site will still be available to us during our next meeting. However, if construction on the LNG plant begins before then, there will be no initial access: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49516196>. As a final attempt to add more species to the list the final stop was behind the Cameron Parish courthouse where some waterbirds were added: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49516432>.

—*Marty Floyd*

LOS Field Trip Series Recaps

(Note: eBird checklist links follow for each general locality referenced)

20-22 August 2018. To far west Texas to attend the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration

by Donna Dittmann and Steve Cardiff

This was the first multi-day outing of the LOS/LBRC-sponsored field trip series. It was set up to coordinate with and help promote the 2018 *Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration* (DMHC). This typically small festival is held in the far west Texas town of Fort Davis. The Davis Mountains are a mecca for hummingbirds - with 18 species recorded in the Trans-Pecos to date. Much to our surprise the DMHC filled to capacity faster than anticipated! Some of our trip participants who had not registered immediately encountered a 'sorry, festival full' when attempting to register online a few days after registration opened. Fortunately, we had been working with the DMHC



committee in advance of this outing so the DMHC allowed all LOS members who had already signed up for our field trip to complete festival registration. Because festival attendance was part of this trip's requirements we now had to limit our trip to those LOS who were able to register.

Our group of ten hit the road in four vehicles. August 20th was the initial travel day westward. Birding together officially began in Texas early on the 21st where the group rendezvoused at the Medina County Regional Park in Castroville (near San Antonio). Our primary target species was Green Kingfisher. We successfully found at least two along the Montezuma bald cypress-lined Medina River (photo left). Castroville's location is very interesting ornithologically, with a mix of eastern, western and southern brush species: eBird: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48325514>. Another highlight was a heard-only singing Audubon's Oriole. By mid-morning only part of

the group was able to continue the long trek west on old Highway 90 towards Fort Davis. The RV group Kevin Colley, Jennifer Alexander, and Delaina LeBlanc remained in Castroville due to a vehicle malfunction. The western bound sub-group took a breather and birded the Marathon area, visiting Gage Gardens: eBird: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48325512>, and Fort Peña Colorado Park ("Post Park"): <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48325506> before continuing on to Fort Davis to get settled into respective accommodations Tuesday night. Meanwhile the RV group birded more at the park awaiting RV repairs - but at least the park offered lots of birds and was a nice place to be stuck. On Wednesday the western group (Jay Huner, David Booth, Dale





Hamilton, Bud Snowden, and Jean Wall, photo right with Steve Cardiff) birded areas of Jeff Davis County including Ranch Road 1832 ("Boy Scout Road"): ebird: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48315841>. This road winds through the desert, along a riparian corridor and up into a canyon at its terminus at a Boy Scout Camp. A Common Black Hawk was a highlight here plus excellent looks at a variety of western species. After lunch Jay, David, and Dale visited a private residence in the Davis Mountains Resort (DMR hotspot, eBird: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48133029>) to watch hummingbird feeders. We saw five species of hummingbird including six Rivoli's (one adult male, a female, and 4 immature males, one photo left) but no Lucifers. A flyover Zone-tailed Hawk was a bonus as well as heard-only Montezuma Quail and Dusky-capped Flycatchers. Bud and Jean were signed up for an early evening DMHC pre-festival trip to the Observatory so opted out of the late afternoon DMR trip.

The DMHC officially kicked off on Thursday with registration and seminars, including a Cardiff/Dittmann presentation on West Texas Hummingbird ID; Steve also presented our talk for a second time on Friday afternoon. The RV component were able get back on the road Wednesday and arrived in Fort Davis that evening so all LOSers were able to participant in their DMHC-scheduled events. Our paths crossed during the DMHC but all chose different field trips to attend Friday through Sunday. Steve and Donna assisted the DMHC by leading ½ day field trips, each day to a different location (eBird: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48132512>, <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48132517>, <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48132520>, <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48399927>), plus added a bonus afternoon trip on Sunday back to the Davis Mountains Resort. Bud and Jean were able to join this time and we had seven species of hummingbirds including a gorgeous male Lucifer.

The Davis Mountains are a great place to study and enjoy hummingbirds. The festival wrapped up with eight species of hummingbirds including 'specialty' species Rivoli's and Lucifer. The festival is a fun event: visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DavisMountainsHummingbirdCelebration/>. Next year's DMHC is scheduled for 22-25 August 2019 - so if interested then be ready to register as soon as online registration opens because it has become quite popular! FYI: the festival is actually scheduled a little later than the migrant hummer peak: highest hummingbird numbers are in early August if you want to go solo.

9 September 2018. Empid Search by Erik Johnson



On 9 September 2018, eleven LOS birders (part of group in photo from left to right: Becky Lloyd, Jack Rogers, Jay Huner, David Booth, and Kristine Dewey; not shown but attending were Allen Correll, Mike Musumeche, Mark Pethke, Jed Pitre, Delaina LeBlanc, and Elise Read) and I visited Matt Conn's property in remote Iberia Parish. He toured us around the approximately 60 acre property that he has been restoring over the last decade. The property and his efforts were featured by the [New](#)

York Times in 2014. Matt has spent countless hours planting thousands of native trees, re-establishing tall-grass prairie, and improving wetland functioning. In short, it's a fantastic birding spot with a nice variety of habitats in various stages of succession.

As we arrived at the property at sunrise, a looming thunderstorm was skirting us to the west, which slowly grew toward us over the course of the next few hours. It was humid and not many birds were calling, but at the property's entrance, a patch of rough-leaf dogwood immediately produced a few empids, our target group for the morning. A brief Alder Flycatcher call was heard, but no one got good looks. We eventually moved on, slowly tallying up numbers of the most abundant migrant: Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and started picking up other typical migrants for the season like Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. We had reached the SW corner of his property,



where we finally found a confiding Eastern Wood-Pewee, giving our group a good look at an empid look-a-like, as we discussed its distinctive features. A few minutes later, a silent empid was perched about 15 feet up in a tree, giving everyone decent, albeit brief looks. I was able to snap a few photos (one at right), and we discussed several of the key empid features – primary projection, eye ring, bill size, wing color, and head shape – landing us on a “Traill’s” Flycatcher (because it was silent, so we couldn’t determine if Alder or Willow). Then the rain finally hit, and 11 soaked birders walked back to the cars.

Soon after we reached the cars, the rain passed, and the birds were active. We quickly picked up more empids at the rough-leafed dogwood patch. More silent “Traill’s” Flycatchers, but offering a great behavioral study as they flitted within the foliage picking off fruit and insects. A molting male Painted Bunting also showed as a couple deer grazed down the trail. We ended the morning with 41 species, so not the most stellar of mornings, but successful in our mission to gain experience with empids. Thanks to a fun and hardy crew, it was a memorable morning! eBird list is here: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48395860>

LOUISIANA BIRDING ADVENTURES UPCOMING LOS Fall and Winter trips

Registrants (**LOS Members only**) will be accepted on a first come basis. Note: if you register and are a no-show then you will not be allowed to register in the future, or, if already registered for an upcoming trip will be removed from that trip - bottom line: if you register and can't attend then please make sure you cancel at least 24 hours *in advance so that your space may filled by someone on the Wait List*.

To register for a trip or cancel a previous registration, email (spell name correctly):

DonnaLDittmann@gmail.com

...or else message is lost in cyberspace.

Personal transportation is required but carpooling may be possible or encouraged at the meet/ departure site. These trips remain free but we recommend you make a donation to LOS as a means to show support for this field trip offering. All food, lodging, or other participant needs on LOS Field Trips are the responsibility of the participant. Trip changes/cancellations will be posted at the www.losbirds.org.



LOUISIANA BIRDING ADVENTURES UPCOMING LOS Fall and Winter trips

- **8 December 2018. Grand Isle and vicinity with Casey Wright.** Meet at 8 AM at Moran's Marina in Port Fourchon (corner Hwys. 1 and 3090 as you are coming off the toll bridge) to potentially scout for the upcoming Grand Isle CBC; we will look for both water and land birds.
- **12 January 2019. Coffee and winter hummingbirds with Steve Cardiff & Donna Dittmann.** Meet at Donna and Steve's home in St. Gabriel at 8:00 AM for a morning of birding. We will discuss how to attract and host, identify, and keep track of winter hummingbirds over coffee and perhaps some sweet treats. For some basic info see: [Winter Hummingbirds: Keeping Track.](#)
- **16 February 2019. Morehouse Parish for Central LA winter species with John Dillon.** Meet on the south side of the Morehouse Parish Courthouse in Bastrop at 7:00 AM. Birders are encouraged to spend the previous night in Monroe. Destinations may depend on weather and road conditions, but possibilities include visiting a large sod farm for Horned Lark and longspurs), Poverty Point SP Reservoir, and agricultural fields for wintering geese (possibly Cackling). We will work our way east into habitat that should also produce good numbers of raptors, possibly including different subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk and maybe the return of the 2018 Rough-legged Hawk. This trip was previously listed as the Mollicy Unit trip but road conditions *at this time suggest* it may not be possible to access the area as initially planned. Please contact me at kisforkryptonite@gmail.com so I can keep everyone informed of possible changes. .
- **30 March 2019. SW LA Wild Ruff Chase with Dan Lane.** At least five Ruffs have been found in the SW rice fields area during this time of the year. Meet at the Jennings Walgreen's parking lot off Elton Rd, S of I-10 at 6:30 AM. We should try to carpool as much as possible from there. We'll basically be winding through rice country looking for suitable habitat between LA-26 south of Jennings and LA-27/14 south of Lake Charles, ending around dusk.
- other trips may also be in the works - stay tuned.

—*Donna L. Dittmann*, Acting Field Trip Coordinator
see previous page on how to register.

...and it's not too late to set aside a couple of Spring dates:

LOS Spring Meeting, 26-28 April 2019, Location Cameron or TBA...

Louisiana Spring Birding Festivals

Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, 12-14 April 2019: [Information coming soon.](#)

Great Louisiana BirdFest, 12-14 April 2019: [Information coming soon.](#)



Louisiana's Sixty-Four Club

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, Rapides Parish, LA

Birders tend to make lists of the birds because it's fun to keep track of what we've seen and heard but also to record our birding activities. To grow our lists, we have to travel around and in so doing have the opportunity to see all sorts of interesting vistas and places in search for new species. Louisiana has sixty-four parishes and our state is small enough that one can get to most parishes in less than a half day. It is easier than ever to keep track of our lists thanks to Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology's eBird system (www.ebird.com). Every time you submit a bird list it records your observations to the respective parish, so your parish list is updated with

each list submitted. eBird is free, so all you have to do is sign up.

Parish Bird Lists Compared
Shreveport Bird Study Group vs. eBird
 Prepared by Jay V. Huner, jvh0660@louisiana.edu Boyce, LA

Parish	SBSG	eBird	+/-	Parish	SBSG	eBird	+/-
Acadia	311	283	28	Madison	244	234	10
Allen	226	205	21	Morehouse	243	239	4
Ascension	266	236	30	Natchitoches	286	270	16
Assumption	183	172	11	Orleans	375	340	35
Avoyelles	219	206	13	Ouachita	278	272	6
Beauregard	222	204	18	Plaquemines	366	350	16
Bienville	255	190	65	Pointe Coupee	269	262	7
Bossier	311	286	25	Rapides	321	296	31
Caddo	354	335	19	Red River	294	277	17
Calcasieu	321	306	15	Richland	232	225	7
Caldwell	230	190	40	Sabine	262	217	19
Cameron	431	406	25	St. Bernard	307	281	26
Catahoula	245	214	31	St. Charles	325	276	49
Claiborne	268	263	5	St. Helena	148	144	4
Concordia	204	200	4	St. James	234	219	15
De Soto	283	261	22	St. John	309	277	32
E. Baton Rouge	329	313	16	St. Landry	269	259	10
East Carroll	203	200	3	St. Martin	322	291	31
East Feliciana	178	165	13	St. Mary	280	267	13
Evangeline	267	253	14	St. Tammany	342	327	15
Franklin	191	182	9	Tangipahoa	252	230	22
Grant	220	215	5	Tensas	212	205	7
Iberia	303	271	32	Terrebonne	320	315	5
Iberville	307	302	5	Union	269	260	9
Jackson	223	197	26	Vermilion	350	333	17
Jeff. Davis	302	293	9	Vernon	252	227	25
Jefferson	360	347	13	W. Baton Rouge	228	231	3
La Salle	261	248	13	W. Carroll	190	170	20
Lafayette	319	303	16	W. Feliciana	292	223	69
Lafourche	321	310	11	Washington	216	203	13
Lincoln	205	204	1	Webster	208	193	15
Livingston	237	223	14	Winn	165	155	10
subtotals: 8555 7983				subtotals: 8660 8068			

TOTAL PARISH TICKETS: SBSG eBird difference
 17215 16051 1164

■ Coastal Parish
 ■ Lowest
 ■ Highest
 ■ Fewer than 200

There appear to be few birders who have birded all of Louisiana's 64 parishes. Those currently known (to me) include Rosemary Seidler, Jean Trahan, David Booth, Van Remsen, and, your author. Rosemary's efforts are quite extraordinary. To encourage birders to visit all of the parishes, several years ago she compiled checklists for each parish. These are accessible through the Shreveport Bird Study Group's (SBSG) website under Parish Lists. She continues to update the lists annually and accepts submissions at any time – current or historical.

There are discrepancies between Rosemary's and eBird parish checklist totals: see table at left (color version online at losbird.org). This is likely because some historical data are missing from eBird. Then there's Rosemary's other goal...which is to personally tally 100 or more species in

each parish, and thus inspires the **Sixty-Four Club** (or...6400 and counting Club)!



Louisiana is a “green” state by and large, with a low population density. When birding away from the state’s population centers, it is clear how much undeveloped country is available for birding -



and also, how much is not easily accessible. In developed areas, birding can still be rewarding with numerous parks and natural areas. The numbers of species (SBSG tally) by parish ranges from a low of 148 for St. Helena to the highest in Cameron with 431. Only six parishes have fewer than 200 species, likely a combination of being under-birded and low habitat diversity, or with few shallow or open water sites to attract water or wading birds. However, even small habitat patches can attract birds. In East Feliciana Parish, there is a small waterbody called Taylor Lake on Hwy. 10 just east of Jackson where Bobby Young documented the parish’s first Roseate Spoonbills

and Wood Storks during September 2018! Your author’s trip to twitch these species (photo left) for his parish list resulted in locating other new species for my list, which now totals 98! Nineteen parishes have 300 or more species on their lists suggesting a combination of greater birder-effort and/or better diversity of habitats. Parish birding can offer significant opportunities to explore areas in your quest to locate new species for your list. I began birding in nearby Allen Parish on a regular basis about four years ago and since then I’ve personally added at least 20 species to that parish’s overall list. And, that opportunity exists for other under-birded parishes.

My pursuit of 100 species in all parishes began when I started birding more seriously in 1998. My eBird lists, however, don’t match my personal lists because I recorded birds prior to the development of eBird and unfortunately don’t have precise records to enter those species even as historical data. So far, I’ve managed to get to 100 species in 54 parishes and in the remainder, I have at least 78. In traveling about the state in search of that 100, I’ve been to the top of Driscoll Mountain in Bienville Parish, which is Louisiana’s tallest peak and near the location where the infamous Bonnie and Clyde met their end. There I ticked Northern Bobwhite, a difficult species to find these days anywhere in Louisiana. In Caddo Parish, I went twitching: I recorded longspurs on the Shreveport airport thanks to access organized by birder Terry Davis; and attended two January “pelagic” trips on Cross Lake with Charlie Lyon including a cold, wet unsuccessful trip in search of the state’s first Mew Gull. In Madison Parish, I’ve seen Grant’s Canal and visited Poverty Point State Historical Site while birding with Monroe area birders Arthur and Doug Liles, and Willie Matthews. In Plaquemines Parish, I’ve launched offshore to visit the gorgeous blue Gulf of Mexico waters and its pelagics several times. I regularly visit Cameron Parish, Louisiana’s “birdiest” parish, which is my ‘best’ parish list with 327 species. Grand Isle in extreme southwest Jefferson Parish is a long haul from my home in central Louisiana but I get there once or twice a year because it’s a darned good place to pick up rarities.

You too can strive to become a member of Louisiana’s Birding Sixty-Four Club. Data entered to eBird also adds to the state’s birding database. But, please remember to bird responsibly. Always request permission to bird on private property and restricted public property, and never trespass.





VISIT LOS SALES

The beautiful **LOS 70th Anniversary Mug** is now available at our web site. Order online for \$15.00/mug, which includes shipping and handling. Go to <http://losbird.org/lossales.htm> to order the mugs today!

Mugs may be purchased at LOS meetings for \$7.50.

The mug is white with Donna L. Dittmann's design of a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers at their nest hole (images below).



Decals, patches, checklists,
and mugs!



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Judith O'Neale, LOS Treasurer
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337.981.1011



Welcome New LOS Members

Lea Hebert Carleton
Lafayette, LA

Susan Hester Edmunds
New Iberia, LA

Andrew From
Lafayette LA

Kevin Leigh
Arnaudville, LA

Amy Noll
New Orleans, LA

Katie Percy
Baton Rouge, LA

Jack Rogers
Baton Rouge, LA

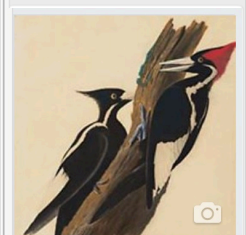
Teri Rome
Denham Springs, LA

Bonnie Slaton
New Orleans, LA

Karen Terrell
Lafayette, LA

Linda Wygoda
Lake Charles, LA

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Louisiana
Ornithological
Society

The Christmas Bird Counts

The Christmas Bird Counts are right around the corner. Please consider helping out whether you are a seasoned veteran or a newbie. This year, holidays don't fall on weekends, so the counts are better spread over the twenty-two day count period. Check calendar below for dates. Compiler contact information follows calendar.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Audubon's 118th Christmas Counts: Louisiana CBCs			Official count period days are shaded: 14 December 2018 - 5 January 2019		14 Johnsons Bayou (LAJB) Red River NWR (LABC) White Lake (LAWL)	15 D'Arbonne NWR (LADA) Lacassine NWR- Thornwell (LALT) Shreveport (LASH)
16 TENTATIVE DATE Sabine NWR (LASA) NEEDS COMPILER	17 Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie NWR (LASC)	18 Northshore-Slidell (LANS)	19 Crowley (LACW) Grand Isle (LAGI)	20 Claiborne (LACB) Franklin (LAFR)	21 Winter Solstice	22 Natchitoches (LANA) New Orleans (LANO)
23 Thibodaux (LATH)	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Reserve-Bonnet Carre (LARB)	27 Lafayette (LALA) Tensas River NWR (LASA)	28 New Iberia (LANI) Venice (LAVE)	29 Cheneyville-LeCompte (LACL) St. Tammany (LAST) Natchez* (MSNZ)
30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 Catahoula NWR (LACA)	3 Palmetto Island (LAPI)	4 Pine Prairie (LAPP)	5 Baton Rouge (LABR) Creole (LACR)
Notes: The Sabine CBC needs a compiler (!) and Fort Polk will set date in mid-Nov (this is a restricted-access count). *Count circle straddles two states.						

Count and Compiler contact information:

Baton Rouge LABR; 5-Jan; Katie Percy; kpercy@audubon.org (225) 768-0820

Catahoula NWR LACA; 2-Jan; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com

Cheneyville-LeCompte LACL; 29-Dec; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com

Claiborne LACB; 20-Dec; John Dillon; kisforkryptonite@gmail.com

Creole LACR; 5 Jan; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org

Crowley LACW; 19-Dec; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com

D'Arbonne LADA; 15-Dec; John Dillon; kisforkryptonite@gmail.com

Franklin LAFR; 20-Dec; Mike VanEtten; mlvanetten@yahoo.com

Grand Isle LAGI; 19-Dec; Chris Brantley; chrisbrantley@charter.net

Johnsons Bayou LAJB; 14-Dec; Gary Kelley; garymke@sbcglobal.net (409) 679-1616

Lacassine NWR-Thornwell LALT; 15-Dec; Rob Dobbs; rcdobbs@gmail.com

Lafayette LALA; 27-Dec; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org

Lake Charles LALC; 21-Dec; Irvin Louque; irvinlouque@gmail.com

Natchitoches LANA; 22-Dec; Larry Raymond; lrraymond@aol.com

Natchez*; MSNZ; 29-Dec; Stratton Bull; strattonbull@gmail.com

New Iberia LANI; 28-Dec; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org

New Orleans LANO; 22-Dec; Glenn Ousset; gousset@bellsouth.net

Northshore-Slidell LANS; 18-Dec; Thomas Trenchard; trench19@hotmail.com

Palmetto Island LAPI; 3-Jan; Toddy Guidry; guidrys@cox.net

Pine Prairie LAPP; 4-Jan; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com

Red River NWR (Bossier-Caddo) LABC; 14-Dec; Terri Jacobson; Terri_Jacobson@fws.gov

Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway LARB; 26-Dec; Melvin Weber; mweber@rtconline.com



Sabine NWR LASA; Date still tentative; this CBC **NEEDS A COMPILER!**
 Shreveport LASH; 15-Dec; Charlie Lyon; lyon5516@bellsouth.net
 St. Tammany Parish LAST; 29-Dec; Chris Brantley; chrisbrantley@charter.net
 Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie NWR LASC; 17-Dec; Samantha Collins; scollins@wlf.la.gov
 Tensas River NWR LATR; 27-Dec; Andrew Morang moranga@bellsouth.net
 Thibodaux LATX; 30-Dec; Delaina LeBlanc; delaina@btnep.org
 Venice LAVE; 28-Dec; Dan Purrington; danny@tulane.edu
 White Lake LAWL; 14-Dec; Michael Seymour; mseymour@wlf.la.gov

The following count has not yet set a date:

Fort Polk LAFP (limited access); DATE probably will be similar to last year's CBC around 19 Dec.

Compiler: Abigail Arfman; arfmanar@gmail.com

—Marty Floyd, CBC Coordinator

LOS Board votes to support the LWF project

The LOS Board voted at the Fall Meeting in Cameron to support the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's new program EV-CLC with a donation of \$2500. Part of that total (\$700) will be drawn from memorial donations.

LWF Kicks Off New Conservation Leadership Program for Students

Stacy Ortego, Outreach Coordinator, Louisiana Wildlife Federation

In September, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) kicked off a brand new program for high school and college students – the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps (EV-CLC). Students from around the state were selected to participate in a training program focused on conservation policy and leadership development. Through this program, LWF will provide the tools necessary for students to gain an understanding of Louisiana's rich conservation legacy and an appreciation for the importance of advocacy in shaping conservation policy.

Our inaugural EV-CLC class met Saturday, September 15, 2018 at the Louisiana Sea Grant building for a session focused on conservation leadership. LWF thanks our presenters from taking time out of their busy schedules to help us make our first session a success. Presenters included Dr. Bobby Soileau (LSU AgCenter), Dr. Robert Twilley (Louisiana Sea Grant), Karen Gautreaux (The Nature Conservancy), Dr. Virginia Burkett (USGS), Dr. Bob Stewart (LWF Board member/EV-CLC Chair), and Rebecca Triche (LWF Executive Director).

The 2018-2019 class of the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps are:

Chandler Ancar, Makayla Baham, Aimee Bajoie, Shelby Brundige, Saheba Cuccia, Sydney Finn, Shelby Francis, Priya Gilman, Natalie Lafont, Sloan Livaccari, Natalie Matherne, Tess Morton, Eduardo Paternostro, and Rosalind Remsen.

Over the course of the academic year, the students will participate in four sessions learning about conservation history, policy, advocacy and leadership. The program will conclude with students presenting resolutions on topics of conservation concern to the LWF Board of Directors at their

annual convention in August 2019. The program is being developed and implemented by Bob Stewart, LWF board member and committee chairman and Stacy Ortego, LWF outreach coordinator. A volunteer committee which also includes Zac Burson, Barney Callahan, Paul Coreil, Marty Floyd, Willie Fontenot, Larry Raymond, and Warren Singer has also been established to assist with the program.



Photo by Stacy Ortego of the 2018-2019 Class. Front: Sydney Finn, Saheba Cuccia, Makayla Baham, Natalie Lafont, Priya Gilman, and Natalie Matherne. Back: Shelby Brundige, Shelby Francis, Chandler Ancar, Eduardo Paternostro, Aimee Bajoie, Tess Morton, Rosalind Remsen, and Sloan Livaccari.

2019 LOS Grant & Award Deadlines

Mark your calendar. January 15, 2019 is the deadline to submit proposals and nominations! All LOS Grant proposals must be based on Louisiana birds and the study should be a situation unique to Louisiana (researcher must be a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society). Email your proposal to Joelle Finley, jjf1946@gmail.com. Nominations for George W. Lowery Jr. and President's awards should be sent to Marty Guidry, guidrym@cox.net. Further details can be found on the LOS website: [LOS GRANT INFORMATION](#) and [LOS AWARDS](#).

Winter Hummingbirds

It's that time of the year. Or at least it should be. The only winterers thus far at our Maison Varzea yard in St. Gabriel are two returns, a female Rufous Hummingbird banded in 2012 by Dave Patton and a returnee Buff-bellied (unbanded, but probably a returnee that first appeared 2014). A couple of Ruby-throateds also still linger. Our poor showing of incoming westerners may suggest another bad year in Louisiana, especially for *Selasphorus*. Regardless, it is time to festoon your yard with color to attract hummers. Hopefully additional birds will arrive here by the LOS field trip in mid-January (see p. 10). Remember to report your wintering hummingbirds to Erik I. Johnson (ejohnson@audubon.org) and/or if in Baton Rouge, the Baton Rouge Audubon Society also solicits reports: info@braudubon.org. To keep up with winterers in the Eastern US sign up to the *Winter Hummingbirds - Eastern US* Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/winterhummingbirds/>. For more information on Louisiana's Winter Hummingbirds or keeping track of your visitors, visit: losbird.org. Photo above: immature male Calliope Hummingbird that turned up last year at our house during the snow storm on 8 December and spent the rest of the winter (and now, hoping for his return).



—Donna L. Dittmann



Judith O'Neale
Louisiana Ornithological Society
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Pre-registration Form

LOS 2019 Winter Meeting January 25-27

McNeese State University, Gayle Hall, Room 104, 4380 Ryan Street, Lake Charles

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number registering for LOS meeting @ \$10.00/person = \$ _____

Number registering for Saturday's dinner @ \$16/person = \$ _____

Membership Dues enclosed = \$ _____

Donation enclosed = \$ _____

Total enclosed = \$ _____



MAKE your hotel reservations for the LOS rate by Friday, January 11th, 2019.
 REGISTER FOR THE MEETING and DINNER by Monday, January 21st

Make check payable to LOS and mail to: Judith L. O'Neale, LOS Treasurer
 504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette 70508 jloneale@aol.com Online registration: LOSBIIRD.ORG