

**Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LOS Spring Meeting  
Hampton Inn, Jennings  
Friday, April 28, 2017**

President Steve Cardiff called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Steve welcomed members and guests to Cameron, especially New Members and thanked those who worked to organize the meeting: Judith, Joelle and Ken for working the registration and sales tables, Donna Dittmann for all of the meeting arrangements, all of the field trip leaders and a special thank-you to all who made generous donations to LOS both monetary and door prize donations.

Steve and Donna previewed Saturday's field trips—Marty Floyd and Marty Guidry leading the western Cameron trip leaving at 6, Donna and Steve leading the eastern Cameron trip leaving at 6:15 a.m., and the 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. trip led by Delaina LeBlanc and Jed Petrie. The keys for Nunez Woods can be found in the Rockefeller Refuge Headquarters mailbox. Breakfast was served at 5 a.m.

Steve introduced speakers Cecelia M. Riley and Michael L. Gray. Cecelia served as Executive Director for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. She is a native Texan, biologist and avid bird watcher, who has spent her lifetime conducting avian research and habitat conservation across the Americas. Cecilia's conservation practices have earned her numerous prestigious awards including: the Partners in Flight Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Bird Conservation in 2005; the Steve Thompson Award for Special Achievement on behalf of Wildlife in 2007; and the Partners in Flight Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Bird Conservation in 2014. Since her retirement, Cecilia, along with her photographer husband Mike Gray have continued to pursue tropical forest protection and bird conservation with renewed focus on South America. The title of their talk was "Birding the Sky Islands of Far West Texas-You're Invited"

Judith drew for door prizes.

Steve announces the fall meeting might be in Cameron on October 27-28.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joelle Finley, Secretary  
May 7, 2017

**Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LOS Spring Meeting  
Hampton Inn, Jennings  
Saturday, April 29, 2017**

President Steve Cardiff called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. and welcomed members, guests and especially any new members. Steve thanked those who helped with the meeting: Judith O'Neale, Joelle Finley and Ken Harris for working the registration and sales tables, Donna Dittmann for making the Jennings arrangements, the field trip leaders Marty Guidry, Marty Floyd, Delaina LeBlanc, Jed Petrie, Andre Moncrief, Steve Cardiff and Donna Dittmann. A special thank you was given to all who made generous donations to LOS for this meeting: Kevin Colley, Jennifer Alexander, Joelle Finley, Ken Harris, J.D. Guillory, Rosemary Seidler and Sara Simmonds. Steve introduces the officers and board of directors of LOS: Steve Cardiff-President, Delaina LeBlanc-Vice-President, Judith O'Neale-Treasurer, Joelle Finley-Secretary, Marty Floyd-Past-President, and Board Members Joseph Vallee-SW/Central LA, Larry Raymond –North LA, Christine Kooi-SE LA and LOS NEWS Editor-Donna Dittmann, and the new JLO Editor- Rob Dodds.

Steve called for a vote on the change to the Bylaws as presented in the Spring 2017 LOS News. All in favor

Steve introduced Marty Guidry who presented the 2017 LOS Awards:

George H. Lowery, Jr. Award-Dr. Frank R. Moore presented by Marty and Carol Lowrey Loker and received by Cecelia Riley

Dr. Frank R. Moore for his critical research on the behavior and ecology of neotropical birds migrating between their wintering grounds in Central and South America and their northern breeding grounds. In his research Dr. Moore has emphasized the importance of stopovers and the overall role they play in migration success. For many years he and his students have studied the availability of suitable habitat along the Gulf Coast during migration. Critical factors for migrating birds at these stopovers include acquiring food in a short period of time, avoiding predators, competing with other individuals for the limited resources, enduring unfavorable weather and being exposed to parasites and pathogens. For over thirty years Dr. Moore and his students have used the Audubon Society Peveto Woods Sanctuary in Cameron Parish as one of their research stations. Dr. Moore is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Southern Mississippi. In March 2017 he received from the Wilson Ornithological Society the Margaret Morse Nice Medal – the premier ornithological award bestowed by this international Society. He has published over 180 ornithological articles in distinguished journals during his extensive career and has mentored many graduate students who have continued his important research. We commend Dr. Moore for his lifetime of work defining the needs of critical stopover habitat and thus helping preserve these sites in Louisiana and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast.

## President's Awards:

### Charles Adkins

The Louisiana Ornithological Society recognizes and honors Charles Adkins on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017 for their generosity and support in preserving one of the outstanding chenier habitats in Cameron Parish and Louisiana and making it available to the birding community. The Willow Island area in southern Cameron Parish, LA has superb habitat that provides food and shelter for migratory and resident species. Although Hurricane Rita recently damaged some habitat on Willow Island, the remainder is being preserved to provide needed support for migratory birds. The Louisiana Ornithological Society appreciates the dedication of Charles Adkins in preserving this outstanding habitat and making it accessible to LOS members during our semiannual meetings and special events.

### Gene Barnett & Bill Gover

The Louisiana Ornithological Society recognizes and honors Gene Barnett and Bill Gover on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017 for their generosity and support in enhancing the Baton Rouge Audubon Society Peveto Woods Sanctuaries in Cameron Parish. Gene and Bill have constructed and placed many benches and feeders at strategic locations within the Peveto Woods Sanctuaries. These benches and feeders allow folks visiting the Sanctuaries to relax and experience the true beauty of the woods, birds and wildlife there. The Louisiana Ornithological Society appreciates the superb work of Gene Barnett and Bill Gover and their unselfish donation of time, materials and craftsmanship to our birding experience.

Steve introduced the speaker Neil Hayward, author of Lost Among the Birds. Neil grew up near Oxford, England, where at a young age he became obsessed with birds. He moved to the US in 2005 and is owner of Cambridge Blue Consulting. Neil is the field trip coordinator and a director of the Brookline Bird Club and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his wife Gerri, young son Henry and cats Sally and Khiva. He spoke to us about how in 2013 he suffered a devastating bout of the Big Year--a temporary insanity that resulted in almost 250,000 miles of travel.

Delaina LeBlanc called the check list-165.

Judith drew for door prizes.

Steve asked for a straw poll on whether to hold the October 27<sup>th</sup> fall meeting back in Cameron or Jennings. The results were overwhelming in favor of Cameron. Steve Announced Sunday's field trips—6:30 a.m. mad dash to the coast and 7:00 a.m. area rice fields.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joelle Finley, Secretary  
May 7, 2017