Greg Lasley of Austin, TX will present his nationally-acclaimed program entitled “A Visit to Robinson Crusoe Island and Its Endangered Hummingbird” on Saturday evening at the Fall 2002 LOS Meeting in Cameron. Located 300 miles off the coast of Chile is the island of Isla Robinson Crusoe. Here British seaman Alexander Selkirk was marooned centuries ago. His experiences was the impetus for Daniel Defoe’s famous book, Robinson Crusoe. Not only rich in history, Isla RobinsonCrusoe also is home to the Juan Fernandez Firecrown - an endangered hummingbird living nowhere else on earth. In his presentation Greg explores the island’s history as well as the habitat and activities of this little-known hummingbird. For many of us who may never have an opportunity to visit this remote island and seek this elusive hummingbird, this adventure through Greg’s eyes and camera lens will be memorable.

Greg is well-known throughout the United States for his extraordinary birding skills, outstanding field trips and contributions to the birding community as longtime South Texas Regional Editor of American Birds, Field Notes and now North American Birds. His diligent work in properly documenting Texas rarities was instrumental in the Texas Bird Records Committee of the TOS developing strict documentation requirements that have gained national acceptance. From 1985 - 2000 Greg served as Secretary of the Texas Bird Record Committee.

Since his initial introduction to birding in the early 1970’s, Greg has birded most of the world including the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa and Antarctica. After retiring from a 25-year career with the Austin Police Department, Greg now leads bird tours throughout the western hemisphere for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

Not content to just observe an area’s birdlife, Greg is also an accomplished birdphotographer. He has had over 1000 of his photographs published in many national and international magazines, books, brochures and catalogues. So bring those binoculars to the Saturday night program and join us for “A Visit to Robinson Crusoe Island and Its Endangered Hummingbird.”
MINUTES OF THE LOS BOARD MEETING - APRIL 26, 2002

The LOS Board Meeting was held at the Dyson House. Those attending: President Marty Guidry, Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, Past President David L’Hoste, Board Members Gay Gomez, Rosemary Seidler and Lee Ellis. JLO Editor Jim Ingold

Absent: Vice President Karen Fay

Financial Report: Judith distributed the latest financial statement with account balances and income and expenses to date. Gay Gomez made a motion that we contribute $25 to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Seconded and approved. [This was later amended to $100]

LOS NEWS: We will be using a different procedure for the LOS News. Lowry’s Printing will be doing the layout and Marty will be submitting articles to them. The latest newsletter was produced by them. We do not have an editor at this time but Marty will be seeking someone to take over this position.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The nominating committee for the fall, 2002 meeting will be: Gay Gomez and Marty Guidry. The committee will be seeking candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary/ Treasurer and Board Member for Southeast Louisiana.

AWARDS: Marty announced the awards which will be presented on Saturday night are:

- George H. Lowery Award to Van Remsen
- President’s Award to Olga and Walter Clifton, Nancy Newfield and Ron Stein and Bobby Santini.
- The latest newsletter was produced by them. We do not have an editor at this time but Marty will be seeking someone to take over this position.

LOS SPRING MEETING: FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002, CAMERON, LA

President Marty Guidry opened the meeting by expressing thanks to Marianna Tanner Primeaux, Judy Fruge, Judith O’Neale, Joseph Valler, Wyntelle Jones and Elouise Mullen for registration, Cameron coordination, hospitality table and store sales.

LOS Officers and Board Members were introduced:
- Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, Past President David L’Hoste, Board Members Rosemary Seidler, Gay Gomez and Lee Ellis. Vice President Karen Fay and former LOS News Editor Carol Foil were unable to attend. JLO Editor Jim Ingold was also introduced.

Marty acknowledged David L’Hoste for his continued good work on the LOS webpage and online store. You can buy bird books, binoculars and lots of birding need at this online store. www.losbird.org

LOS Elections will be held at the fall meeting. The nominating committee will be Lee Ellis, Karen Fay and Marty Guidry. The positions will be President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and SE Board Member.

LOS WINTER MEETINGS:

- Los Angeles, January 24-26, 2002
- Lake Charles, January 24-26, 2002. Anyone interested in hosting the winter 2004 meeting should contact Marty.

LOS Gave a grant this year of $1000 to Jennifer Coulson for her continued studies on the Swallow-tailed Kite in Louisiana.

LOS SPRING MEETING: SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2002, CAMERON, LA

President Marty Guidry opened the meeting with thanks to Marianna Tanner Primeaux and Judy Fruge for Cameron coordination, Joseph Valler for Sales Table and Elouise Mullen, Wyntelle Jones and Judith O’Neale for registration and hospitality table. Marty also thanked Clifton Hebert for the Knights of Columbus work and for the new LOS sign.

The officers and board members of LOS were introduced: Vice President Karen Fay, Past President David L’Hoste, Board Members Rosemary Seidler, Gay Gomez and Lee Ellis. Past President David L’Hoste and Jim Ingold, JLO Editor. He also thanked Clifton for continuing to be our Webmaster and for producing an excellent webpage for LOS (losbird.org).

Marty thanked Judith for her program on Cuba which she gave Friday evening.

Marty played a tape and asked members to guess which bird was on the recording. Many of the members knew that it was the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The LOS News will be handled by a new procedure with our printer doing our setup and layout. Articles and information should be sent to Marty, preferable as a word processing document. Deadlines will be listed in upcoming newsletters.

LOS elections will be held at the full meeting. The nominating committee will be Lee Ellis, Karen Fay and Marty Guidry. The positions will be President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and SE Board Member.

LOS gave a grant this year of $1000 to Jennifer Coulson for her continued studies on the Swallow-tailed Kite in Louisiana. The Ted Parker youth scholarship fund will be sending a student to summer camp.

Guest speakers 2002: Greg Lasley will give the program for the Saturday night fall meeting October 2002 on the Juan Fernandez Islands.

Rosemary moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Lee seconded and motion was approved.

Marty L’Hoste moved to adjourn at 9-40 p.m.
In the Grand Isle area on 16 April when 75 to 90 were counted (BMM, CCS, PAW).

Henslow’s and LeConte’s Sparrows are finding the closed landfill at the northwest corner of Arabi, St. Bernard, to be excellent wintering habitat. On 11 March, 2 Henslow’s and 11 LeConte’s Sparrows were there (JOC, TDC, CR, GO, DM, Sherry and Fred DeFranceschi).

Following reports of Marbled Godwits in interior southwestern Louisiana this spring and discussions of its status in the rice fields on LA-BIRD, it seemed like a good excuse to discuss status and identification of Godwits from Louisiana perspective. There are only four species of godwits (Limosa) worldwide. Two species are regular and easy to locate in Louisiana at the appropriate time of year and in preferred habitat. A third species has occurred once as a vagrant and the fourth is a potential vagrant.

Let’s take a closer look - godwits

In the Junior Division, the Special Award went to Ryan Stewart (specimen - LSUMNS); 25 Sep. 1999, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron (specimen-LSUMNS); 25 Sep. 1999, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Par.; and 21 Oct. 1995, near Lake Arthur, Jefferson Davis Par. Most older fall records lack supporting documentation. There are no accepted winter records for LA (or the U.S. for that matter).

The Louisiana State Science Fair was conducted April 5th and 6th at LSU in Baton Rouge. LOS would like to congratulate this year’s Louisiana Ornithological Society Special Award winners. There were several projects this year involving bird research and three of them received recognition.

Let’s take a closer look - godwits

In the Senior Division, the Special Award winner was Claire Hebert of Baton Rouge and this was a truly outstanding project. Her project was titled, “Motmots: Molecular Phylogeny and Biogeography.” Claire received assistance from the LSU Museum of Natural Science and supervised access to the bird collection and molecular laboratory to conduct her research. Her project involved analysis of DNA sequences to develop a new classification for the motmots based on evolutionary relationships, and test existing hypotheses regarding biogeography and diversification of the motmots.

LOS SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Let’s take a closer look - godwits

In the Grand Isle area on 16 April when 75 to 90 were counted (BMM, CCS, PAW). In the Grand Isle area on 16 April when 75 to 90 were counted (BMM, CCS, PAW).

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The dates for the Fall Period are 1 August – 30 November. If you need cards or rare bird report forms, contact me at the above address or at home, (225) 751-8716.
The only report of a Franklin’s Gull was on 27 April: 1 adult on Shreveport, Cameron, (BMM, CCS, RDP). The nests of nesting pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was found 25 May in the Valentine area, Evangeline, (Melissa A. Powell, Kim and Carolyn Fueiler).

A large migratory movement of ~90 White-eyed Vireos occurred on 31 March in the Grand Isle, Fourchon area, Jefferson, Lafourche, (PAW, BMM, CCS). On 6 May, a Black-whiskered Vireo returned to the same area on Grand Isle, Jefferson, where 1 or 2 birds have been present in recent years (PAW, BMM). The bird was still present in late May.

Cliff Swallows returned to Natchitoches on 18 March when 4 were seen (JT, CL). Some were in Shreveport, Caddo, on 21 March when 3 were seen repairing nests from a previous year (RS). In New Orleans on Paris Road, Orleans, a new colony of nesting Cliff Swallows, ~60 birds, was located on 28 May (DM). A Cave Swallow was present on 7 May at the bridge on LA 82 to Texas in Cameron (JPK, JW, SZ). A good count of 12 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Smithport Lake, DeSoto, was obtained on 17 March (JPK, JW, RS). There were three late records for thrushes: a Veery (CL-vt) and a Swainson’s Thrush (JH, JT) both in Shreveport, Caddo, on 28 May and 2 Hermit Thrushes in the Atchafalaya NWR, Iberville, on 10 May (JOC, CR).

Warblers made a good showing in Spring 2001 with many early and late dates, plus the occurrence of the Painted Redstart at Peveto Woods. Nashville Warblers were both early and late at Shreveport, Caddo, with 4 found on 15 April (JT) and I still present on 12 May (RS). A Yellow Warbler was late, 27 May, on Grand Isle, Jefferson (PAW, BMM, RDP). On the same day they also found 1 or 2 Ovenbirds. A Cape May Warbler, a rare migrant in Louisiana, was found on 6 May in the Peveto Woods Sanctuary, Cameron (PAW, BMM). A probable wintering Black-throated Green Warbler was found on Grand Isle on 4 March (PAW, BMM, RDP). At Smithport Lake, DeSoto, on 17 March were 10 Yellow-throated Warblers (JT, RS). The Welsh Landfill, Jefferson (RS). A cerulean Warbler was late, 27 May, on Grand Isle, Jefferson (PAW, BMM, RDP) when 4 were present on 24 March. On 6 May, the Fourchon, Grand Isle area, Lafourche, Jefferson (PAW, BMM), had ~2000 Least Terns present.

White-winged Doves are continuing their eastward expansion. On six days between 4 March and 27 May, these doves were found on Grand Isle and in New Orleans, with as many as 8 in New Orleans (PAW, BMM, RDP, CCS) on 6 April. Also, 2 White-winged Doves visiting a feeder in uptown New Orleans, Orleans (Joyce and Bernie Mayer), from 9 to 16 April. The range expansion of Inca Doves continues as well. They apparently nested successfully on Grand Isle, Jefferson (PAW, BMM), as 5 adults and 2 fledglings were found on 6 May. In contrast, the Ground Doves have become quite rare in Louisiana since the publication of Lowery (1974). Only 2 Ground Doves were reported: 1 on 7 April on Grand Isle, Jefferson (PAW, BMM), and 1 on 17 April in Vermilion (JL, m.ob.).

Evidence of Monk Parakeet nesting in Louisiana was found on 5 May. Two birds were seen, one carrying nesting material to a large communal nest in New Orleans (JW, AA, SH). A Black-billed Cuckoo in the Honey Island Swamp, St. Tammany (DM), was quite late, 20 May. Also late was a year-old male Calliope Hummingbird in St. Gabriel, Iberville (JPK, JR), on 1 April. On 20 May, a singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in the Honey Island Swamp provided one of the rare spring records for this species in the state (DM, EM). Unusual for Baton Rouge was a male Vermilion Flycatcher on Ben Hur Road on 9 March (Dan Christian, Michael Seymour). The Great Kiskadee present in the Venice area, Plaquemines, for about two weeks was located again on 18 April (BMM, PAW). Two Western Kingbirds (earlier migrants or, more probably, wintering birds) were found west of Point a La Hache, Plaquemines, (GO, Joelle Finley, et al) on 31 March. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher arrived early in the Shreveport area, Cadso, when 2 were found on 18 March (RS, Vicki LeFevres).
JOSEPH P. KLEINMAN

LORAIN SHORES — SPRING 2001 — (1 March – 31 May)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (Limosa limosa)

The observation of 2 King Rails at Big Branch NWR, St. Tammany (DM, EM), on 20 May suggests that they might be trying to breed. The Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas does not report any Rallus species for the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Fourth Beach, Lafourche, Jefferson, provided an excellent count of Wilson’s Plover, with 47 being found on 24 March (DM, RDP). On the same day in this area, they also found 14 Piping Plovers, an endangered species. Other reports of Piping Plovers in this same area were on 6 April and 1 on 6 May (PAW, CCs, BMM).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to expand with 6 reports from 13 April to 30 May from various parts of the state, Vermilion, Plaquemines, Cameron, Terrebonne, (BF, TP, FG, PAW, BMM, JP, KB, GP, Paul Yakupzack, Ron Paille, Dr. Sasser).

One of our more spectacular birds, the Swallow-tailed Kite, continues to do well, despite some logging in one of its nesting areas. In St. Tammany WMA, St. Mary, 7 were found on 3 and 11 April (JOC), 9 breeding birds (aerial survey) at Sherburne and Atchafalaya NWR, St. Martin, Berville, Pointe Coupee, (JOC, FOC), and 10 on 15 April at Sherburne (DL, m.ob.). A kite was also found in Beauregard Parish on 13 April along the Sabine River (DL). In the town of Pearl River, St. Tammany, on 5 May, 22 Swallow-tailed Kites were at a roost near a nesting colony (JOC, JOC, Joc, Joc), and were found on 20 May during an aerial survey of the Pearl River basin, St. Tammany, Pearl River County, MS (FOS). A good movement of 148 Mississippi Kites, all flying east, was seen on Old River Road in Beauregard Parish on 13 April (DL). On 15 April, the same observer found a flock of 48 Mississippi Kites in a feeding frenzy on a dragonfly swarm on Whiskey Bay Road, St. Martin.

Observations of Swainson’s Hawk have included 1 possible wintering bird, on 3 March US 61 between LaPlace and Gramercy, St. John, (PY), 1 at mile marker 41, 1-10 in Jefferson Parish, 8-12 in Lafourche Parish, 50+(if car was quick for nesting?) at Chalmette, (Caucasius, Victoria Rettig, Molly Richard).

A late American Kestrel on 6 May was found near the west ferry landing in Cameron (PY). Two late Peregrine Falcons were found 5 May in Acadia: 1 at LA92 x LA131, and 1 just north of Morse (JP, KF).

Reports of Whimbrel were: 2 birds, marginally early on 28 March, at East Jetty, Cameron, (TF, FP), CT, on 24 April at the erstwhile Vincent Refuge, Vermilion (JP, JK), 38 on 5 May in various rice fields, Vermilion (JP, FK), 41 on 27 May in rice fields south of Kaplan, Vermilion (JP, FK), where a flock or several was found. On 15 April, a flock of 8 was found on 4 April, Lafourche, Lafourche, BMM, (BP, RMP). Reports of Hudsonian Godwit, a species of concern, were of 2 east of Holmwood, Calcasieu (CK), on 27 April, and 32 in various rice fields, Vermilion, Acadia (JP, KP, KB), on 5 May. Marginally early were 12 Marbled Godwits seen at East Jetty, Cameron (JP, KP, CF), on 28 March. A good count, for an inland location, of 95 Ruddy Turnstones in rice fields south of Kaplan, Vermilion (JP, CF), was made on 27 April. Various rice fields, Acadia, Vermilion (JP, FK), yielded a good count of 1050 Dunlin on 5 May. A female Rufus was found southeast of Crowley, Acadia (DL, Wing Tour Group) on 17 April.

Wilson’s Phalarope, 39 birds in 3 flocks, were migrating west to east on 28 April in Cameron (DM). However, they were still plentiful on 7 May when 79 were found next to the road to the Cameron Seaport, Cameron (BF, JP, KB). A phalarope, with carapace of puffed neck sticking out for nesting at Chalmette, (Caucasius, Victoria Rettig, Molly Richard).

Beaches, and salt marshes for foraging and roosting, but it should also be sought among other migrant shorebirds inland, especially in the rice and crawfish producing areas of southwestern Louisiana. Be on the lookout for this species during spring or fall migration, or perhaps even during the winter.

Godwits in General

Godwits are large, somewhat between awkward and elegant, and relatively easy to identify shorebirds, at least to genus = godwit (Limosa = muddy). Like many other species of shorebirds, godwits deliberately pick or probe exposed or shallowly flooded soft mud substrates for invertebrate prey, although these species may also forage in more open areas. Some godwits are known to forage in somewhat deeper water if necessary. Godwits are usually found in association with, and can be directly compared to, other shorebird species. Their size alone, which usually dwarfs other shorebirds, quickly eliminates the majority of other species from consideration.

In our area, the only shorebirds that could remotely be confused with godwits based on size with general coloration are Willet and Long-billed Curlew, but both are easily eliminated given adequate looks at obvious field marks. American Avocet is superficially godwit-like in size and shape, but the plumage is strikingly different, and the bill is very slender, delicate, and all-black—not likely to cause confusion even in poor view. Beautifully marked in buoyant flight, the unique two-toned (pale belly, dark distally) appearance to the bill. Bird coloration varies with age and time of year, with breeding condition males brightest (reddish orange base) and juveniles dullest (dull pink). Although absolute bill length can actually overlap between Long-billed Dowitcher and Hudsonian Godwit, dowitchers are smaller, lack the pink base to the bill (instead it’s greenish or orange), and are shorter-legged and generally more “dumpy” in appearance. All godwits have essentially all-dark colored legs: gray, bluish-gray, blackish-gray, or brownish-black.

All four species of godwit show relatively dramatic reverse sexual size dimorphism; females are much smaller than males (a general overlap). Within-species sexual dimorphism in overall size can equal between-species size differences, and is a potential cause of misidentifications. Females also have longer and more prominently rump, and tail differences between species) are included on a separate page and only cover winter (Basic) plumage.

Continued

Identification Basics

The three popular recent North American field identification guides vary in how well they portray this genus. The National Geographic Society Guide to North American Birds (3rd edition) does a decent job of illustrating the multiple plumages of all species and emphasizing the important field ID characters, but completely ignores sexual dimorphism in Alternate plumage, overall size, and bill length. Flight illustrations (which are important to highlight distinctive wing, rump, and tail differences between species) are included on a separate page and only cover winter (Basic) plumage. The Sibley Guide to Birds has better illustrations (all species together on two

continued

continued
consideration during the identification process. Most observers are aware that records of the rarest species (e.g., those on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee “Review List”) are evaluated to establish whether the identification is likely correct. However, “regular” (non-Review List) species that are found at the wrong time and/or place may actually be considered just as or more unusual than some “Review List” species (for which there may be numerous records and a well-established pattern of vagrancy from over the years). For example, in the case of godwits, a winter record of Hudsonian Godwit would be unprecedented. Such a record might be considered just as or more unusual than, say, another Louisiana spring record of Black-tailed Godwit. Similarly (if not as dramatically), Marbled Godwits are unusual inland, especially in spring, and should be identified with caution and well-documented. For guidelines on how to properly document unusual records, see How to Document Rare Birds by D. L. Dittmann and Greg Lasley reprinted from BIRDING at the LOS website (http://losbird.org/dittman_lasley.htm). Also at the web site, see Instructions for reporting Louisiana birds (http://losbird.org/instruct_lbrc.htm). The best source of information about Louisiana birds is still, of course, Louisiana Birds (Lowery 1974). Although increasingly out-of-date, the status, abundance, and seasonal data therein (refer especially to the Summary of Seasonal Occurrence “bar graphs”) are still reasonably accurate for the majority of Louisiana species (a great example of the durability of those “established patterns”).

Specimens and the Louisiana bird record card file at the LSU Museum of Natural Science provided an invaluable resource. Additional sources of information include the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (7th Edition); Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Vol III Waders to Gulls (BWP); and Holarctic Waders; Birds of North America - Life Histories for the 21st Century accounts: Marbled Godwit, No. 492, 2000; Hudsonian Godwit, No. 629, 2002; and Bar-tailed Godwit, No. 581, 2001; these are highly recommended for additional information about these species.

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Jerry G. and Maleta Walls, 486 Hwy 3041, Bunkie, LA 71322, 318-346-4464, gyretes@prodigy.net
Juvenal plumage, each mantle and wing covert feather has whitish-buff scalloped edge giving the back a noticeably scaly appearance—the brown and white pattern very distinct from any plumage of Marbled (Fig. 3). The throat and breast are buffy and the remainder of the underparts is white.

Voice. Reported as generally silent away from breeding sites (from BWP). Alarm note “gahik;” also “k-wit…weeit.” (= interpret as BWP sounding like “godwit”!)

So what about those reports from outside the “normal” pattern? Current knowledge about status, distribution, timing of migration, patterns of vagrancy, habitat preferences, behavior, and identification is based on a foundation of reliable data contributed and archived by professional and amateur ornithologists over the decades. Although we continue to gradually fine-tune this knowledge, the established patterns are remarkably stable and conservative, so much so that many reviewers of records use opinions based on the probability, say, that a species should or shouldn’t be present at a particular time and place. Conversely, it can, of course, be dangerous to put too much faith in probabilities. Birds don’t always conform to the established patterns (e.g., extralimital or seasonal vagrants do occur, whether they are pioneers, navigationally challenged, or simply bored and misbehaving), and after, all patterns have to be treated as just one or a few records. In the future, especially as we rapidly alter our world, new patterns will develop, and old patterns will remain the same, undergo shifts, or even shift to extinction. Observations (BWP) are important and still are important and help reinforce those patterns. Each report from “outside the normal pattern” is significant and may signal a shift in the pattern or a completely new pattern. Over time, such reports may contribute to analyses that may generate hypotheses about the ultimate forces behind phenomena such as long-distance vagrancy or shifts in breeding distributions, timing of migration, and so on.

The bottom line is that, to be considered acceptable, records fall outside established patterns for a species need to be documented. It would be wonderful if we lived in a perfect world and could accept all observations at face value. But, none of us is perfect, especially when it comes to bird identification. And so, record reviewers must abide by the conservative philosophy that the burden of proof is on the observer. And so, the best guide or handbook, the Kaufman Focus photographic guide, Birds of North America does not illustrate (once you figure out where shorebirds are placed in the guide, which is difficult) Bar-tailed Godwit, and lacks a flight photo of Bar- tailed Godwit. Although it’s nice to see actual photographs of these birds, this guide otherwise has the most superficial coverage of the group.

Not surprisingly, Shorebirds: An Identification Guide (obviously devoted to shorebirds of the World) has the best coverage of these four species.

The Main ID Pitfall

Our two regularly occurring species, Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, are very different from each other in all plumages and should be unmistakable under good viewing conditions and, especially, if seen in flight. Marbled Godwits look more or less the same in all plumages, except that females are larger. Spring migrant Hudsonian Godwits, on the other hand, can be quite variable in size, coloration, and bill size. Observations (BWP) by female Hudsonian Godwits tend to have duller Alternate plumage (or, some individuals could still be in Basic plumage) and are larger and longer-billed, they would be more likely to be mistaken for a Bar-tailed Godwit, especially in direct comparison to a smaller, shorter-billed, more brightly plumaged male Hudsonian. The likelihood of this “misidentification scenario” occurring would, of course, depend on the case of poor viewing conditions (longer distance, poor light) and/or by a lack of knowledge about species’ status.

Molt

Presence or absence of primary molt is often helpful in predicting whether a bird is a migrant versus “over-summering” or “over-wintering.” As discussed in Let’s take a closer look —Calidris sandpipers (peeps) LOS News No. 187: 8-14, it adds another important dimension to your observational “tool kit.” Primary molt should be looked for if birds are observed during June and July. Summing up individuals (most likely one-year-olds, or “defective” individuals with some disability that forced them to remain south of breeding areas) initiate molt earlier than post- breeders. For many species, southbound migrants do not begin primary molt until they arrive at their wintering sites. A Hudsonian Godwit with primary molt in June is likely a summering bird because a returning bird should be on a later molt schedule. However, godwits have a more complex molt than most of the peeps. Some godwits initiate primary molt on breeding sites and some in the south. Observers need to know whether a species is unusual in certain areas or during parts of the year, because this should be taken into facing pages), better representation of plumages, and more complete information on flight behavior and illustrations. The range maps, though tiny, depict distributions with reasonable accuracy; “does” showing “extralimital” distribution and arrows showing migration routes are impressive and convincing. Although Sibley’s text indicates that females are larger, and both sexes are illustrated (at least for the three plumage-dimorphic species), the illustrations do not reflect the sexual dimorphism in body size and bill length. This is unfortunate because a mistaken idea might be mislead into believing that there is NO intraspecific variation in body size and bill length. The Kaufman Focus photographic guide, Birds of North America does not illustrate (once you figure out where shorebirds are placed in the guide, which is difficult) Bar-tailed Godwit, and lacks a flight photo of Bar- tailed Godwit. Although it’s nice to see actual photographs of these birds, this guide otherwise has the most superficial coverage of the group.

Hudsonian Godwit

Plumage. Definitive Basic Plumage is acquired by a complete molt. The replacement of body feathers is initiated following breeding season molt (often in spring) and continues through a variety of stages of transitional plumage. Completion of body molt and replacement of the flight feathers occurs on the wintering grounds. In both sexes, the Definitive (adult) Basic Plumage is essentially complete by August or September, leaving only a possible very narrowly streaked with black. The head and neck are somewhat paler. A prominent white supercilium is one of the most striking features. The under parts are whitish gray. The tail appears very dark black, but the outer tail feathers have a wedge of white extending from the base nearly to the tip, and most of the other rectrices have white bases and small white tips. The tail contrasts with the white tail coverts. The gray inner upper wing coverts and the blackish flight feathers and primary coverts contrast with a white stripe along the base of the secondaries and inner primaries.

The grayish black under wing linings are diagnostic; otherwise, the under wing is similar to the upper wing pattern. The white tail streaks and the black under wing linings are very conspicuous in flight (Fig. 2). The bill is pale pink at the base and darkens toward the tip. Bill length varies by sex and age and has been longest in the prominently upturned bills (See Fig. 1) than males; juveniles are relatively shorter sex for note. That Fig. 1 compares male and female Hudsonian Godwit to male Marbled Godwit; female Marbled Godwit has a shorter, darker culmen than males. The legs are dark gray. From a Louisiana perspective, it important to know Basic Plumage as a starting point because many birds that return in spring are not yet in Alternate Plumage. The first migrants that appear in late April and early May usually display a mixture of Basic and Alternate feathers. As spring progresses the gray Basic Plumage is replaced during a partial molt involving most of the body feathers.

Definitive Alternate plumage occurs in summer and autumn. Basic plumage is not illustrated below than females. Males in “maximum” Alternate Plumage are exceptionally handsome. The feathers of the mantle, scapulars, and tertials are black with white scapullos, imparting a marbled appearance. The head and nape appear gray from a distance, but are actually finely streaked with dark gray and white. The wing coverts (folded wing) are predominately gray but the bend of the wing is outlined in blackish-gray. The lower throat, breast, and belly are brick red (= dark rufous or brownish red), finely tipped with brown, which is most prominent along the sides. The chin is white. The under tail coverts are toned-brown, rufous white, and chestnut. The bills are exclusively black in males. In breeding season conditions, females are attired in a duller version of the male’s plumage. The under parts are more barred with white and, from a distance, can appear more or less uniform, allowing for more detailed identification.

To date, a juvenile Hudsonian Godwit has never been observed in Louisiana. All summer-range records have been of adults in transitional plumage. Juvenile plumage is distinctive and easy to distinguish from that of adults. Most juveniles are light brown with uniformly buffy, white rump and under tail coverts. The back and wing coverts (folded wing) are broadly edged with buff

continued
and give the upper parts a scalloped appearance. Juveniles undergo a partial body molt during the first winter. First-year individuals acquire First Alternate plumage (essentially a dull, more female-like version of Definitive Alternate) via a partial body molt late in their first spring.

**Voice.** Though not particularly vocal during migration, the typical call is a muted “codweet.” Generally, the call can be interpreted as some rendition of the name, “godwit.” Among the genetic name “godwit,” it is reported to originate from Old English ("dod wicte" meaning “good creature,” as in being “good to eat”), it seems as likely that “godwit” is an interpretation of the superficially similar basic calls of several of the species. Migrants in Louisiana will also occasionally “sing,” putting together in a melodic series of 3 or 4 “godwit”-type notes!

**Marbled Godwit**

**Plumage.** In general, all three plumage categories (Basic, Alternate, and Juvenal) are very similar. There is no obvious difference in coloration between males and females in Alternate plumage as is the case in the other three species. In all plumages, Marbled Godwit can be recognized by their overall tawny-cinnamon coloration, including (very importantly) the under wing linings. The outer primaries and primary coverts are dark brown, the inner primaries and secondaries bright tawny-cinnamon (Fig. 2). The tail is also tawny-cinnamon barred with dark brown. The face is relatively unmarked compared to other godwits, with a subtle, buffy supercilium, and darker lores. The only other species of shorebird that shows similar plumage characters is the Long-billed Curlew, which is larger, possesses the typical distically decurved “curlew” bill, and has pale blue-gray legs (which can be used to differentiate sleeping individuals that have their heads tucked). A complete Prebasic molt occurs on the wintering grounds from July through November. Definitive Basic plumage, the upper parts are spangled (spotted or barred) with dark brown on a tawny ground color; the under parts are paler and only faintly barred. The Prealternate molt occurs primarily on the wintering grounds during February and March and includes most of the body feathers and the tail. Definitive Alternate plumage is similar to Basic, except that the under parts are relatively brighter and more conspicuously barred; First Alternate plumage is virtually indistinguishable from Definitive Alternate. Juvenile plumage is characterized by brighter, unmarked tawny-cinnamon under parts and more rufous tail combined with a more muted, softer pattern of dark motting on the upper parts. Another feature of Juvenile-plumaged individuals is the almost unmarked upper wing coverts. Juveniles begin their Prebasic molt on the wintering grounds, and the juvenile body plumage is soon replaced by more adult-like First Basic plumage (which is virtually indistinguishable from Definitive Basic plumage except for a few retained juvenile wing coverts). It can be very difficult to age individuals without really close views. Very worn adults (Alternate plumage) can look fairly pale and unmarked. For feather comparisons between adult and juvenile Marbled Godwit (and to compare to Bar-tailed Godwit), see Fig. 3.

Small numbers regularly summer along our coast and adjacent barrier islands. These individuals are best identified (and separated from late northbound or early southbound migrants) by very worn plumage (these probably represent First Alternate individuals) and by the onset of primary molt as early as mid-May to early June. Summering birds typically begin Prebasic molt well before southbound migrants arrive.

**Voice.** The call note is a “kaa-wet,” “ger-WHIT,” or other similar sounding rendition of the basic “godwit” template. Also gives more muted single- or double-noted calls. Generally quiet away from breeding areas; most frequently calls when taking flight.

**Black-tailed Godwit**

**Plumage.** The lone Louisiana record was of an individual in Alternate plumage. This species is superficially similar to Hudsonian Godwit, but is proportionately larger (sex for sex) and has a straighter, heftier bill. Side by side, males of the two species in full Alternate plumage are easily differentiated, but Alternate-plumaged females or birds in transitional plumage may be less conspicuous. In Definitive Alternate plumage, males (subspecies *limosa*; generally the more expected subspecies to occur) have a rufous-chestnut breast and fore-belly (nominate *limosa* is more cinnamon-rufous). The head and neck are smooth cinnamon-rufous (somewhat reminiscent of an American Avocet), accented by a white supercilium (less pronounced behind the eye), dark lores, and white eye-arc. The rest of the under parts are white, except for prominent dark barring bars on the sides, flanks, lateral tail-coverts, and vent (less pronounced in *limosa*). The mantle feathers are pink-chestnut with bold black borders bordered by white bars. These feathers are usually mixed with residual gray Basic plumage feathers (some of which will not be replaced). A bright white lower rump and upper tail coverts divide the black tail from the blackish lower back and upper rump. The under tail coverts are white. Females are duller overall, and the dark barring on the under parts is more restricted to the flanks. Wing coverts are brown. In flight, Black-tailed’s white under wing outlined in black is diagnostic (Fig. 2). From above, the wing pattern of Hudsonian and Black-tailed is similar; Black-tailed has a larger, more conspicuous white wing stripe. The onset of Prebasic molt begins on the breeding grounds or at staging areas and includes some body feathers and inter primaries (extent and timing of molt varies among populations). Molt is then suspended and later completed on the wintering grounds. Definitive Basic plumage is fairly uniform in appearance, recalling Basic plumage of Hudsonian Godwit or perhaps even Willet. The upper parts are gray-brown with the scapulars and wing coverts edged with white, the under parts are grayish-white, and the face pattern generally a drabber version of Alternate plumage. The striking pattern of the wings and tail in flight remains diagnostic in Basic plumage. Juvenile plumage is similar to Basic, especially the “plainness” of the plumage, but gray is replaced by cinnamon on the face and neck, and the upper wing coverts are edged with cinnamon-buff, giving the back a somewhat more scalloped appearance.

**Voice.** Call notes reported as (from Birds of the Western Palearctic) “BWP” “daaat” or “da’a.” Also “kett” or “kik” —nothing that could be interpreted as “godwit.”
and give the upper parts a scalloped appearance. Juveniles undergo a partial body molt during the first winter. First-year individuals acquire First Alternate plumage (essentially a dull, more female-like version of Definitive Alternate) via a partial body molt late in their first spring.

Voice. Though not particularly vocal during migration, the typical call is a muted “coo-vit.” Generally, the call can be interpreted as some rendition of the name, “godwit.” Although the generic name “godwit” is reported to originate from Old English “dod wicte” meaning “good creature,” as in being “good to eat”, it seems as likely that “godwit” is an interpretation of the superficially similar basic calls of several of the species. Migrants in Louisiana will also occasionally “sing,” putting together in a melodic series of 3 or 4 “godwit”-type notes!

Marbled Godwit

Plumage. In general, all three plumage categories (Basic, Alternate, and Juvenile) are very similar. There is no obvious difference in coloration between males and females in Alternate plumage as is the case in the other three species. In all plumages, Marbled Godwit can be recognized by their overall tawny-cinnamon coloration, including (very importantly) the under wing linings. The outer primaries and primary coverts are dark brown, the inner primaries and secondaries bright tawny-cinnamon (Fig. 2). The tail is also tawny-cinnamon barred with dark brown. The face is relatively unmarked compared to other godwits, with a subtle, buffy supercilium, and darker lores. The only other species of shorebird that shows similar plumage characters is the Long-billed Curlew, which is larger, possesses the typical distinctively decurved “curlew” bill, and has pale blue-gray legs (which can be used to differentiate sleeping individuals that have their heads tucked). A complete Prebasic molt occurs on the wintering grounds from July through November. In Definitive Basic plumage, the upper parts are spangled (spotted or barred) with dark brown on a tawny ground color; the under parts are paler and only faintly barred. The Prealternate molt occurs primarily on the wintering grounds during February and March and includes most of the body feathers and the tail. Definitive Alternate plumage is similar to Basic, except that the under parts are relatively brighter and more conspicuously barred; First Alternate plumage is virtually indistinguishable from Definitive Alternate. Juvenile plumage is characterized by bright, unmarked tawny-cinnamon under parts and more rufous tail combined with a more muted, softer pattern of dark motting on the upper parts. Another feature of Juvenile-plumaged individuals is the almost unmarked upper wing coverts. Juveniles begin their Prebasic molt on the wintering grounds, and the Juvenile body plumage is soon replaced by more adult-like First Basic plumage (which is virtually indistinguishable from Definitive Basic plumage except for a few retained juvenile wing coverts). It can be very difficult to age individuals without really close views. Very worn adults (Alternate plumage) can look fairly pale and unmarked. For feather comparisons between adult and juvenile Marbled Godwit (and to compare to Bar-tailed Godwit), see Fig. 3.

Small numbers regularly summer along our coast and adjacent barrier islands. These individuals are best identified (and separated from late northbound or early southbound migrants) by very worn plumages (these probably represent First Alternate individuals) and by the onset of primary molt as early as mid-May to early June. Summering birds typically begin Prebasic molt well before southbound migrants arrive.

Voice. The call note is a “kweet,” “ger-WHIT,” or other similar sounding rendition of the basic “godwit” template. Also gives more muted single- or double-noted calls. Generally quiet away from breeding areas; most frequently calls when taking flight.

Black-tailed Godwit

Plumage. The lone Louisiana record was of an individual in Alternate plumage. This species is superficially similar to Hudsonian Godwit, but is proportionately larger (sex for sex) and has a straighter, heftier bill. Side by side, males of the two species in full Alternate plumage are easily differentiated, but Alternate-plumaged females or birds in transitional plumage may be less conspicuous. In Definitive Alternate plumage, males (subspecies islandica; generally the more expected subspecies to occur) have a rich rufous-chestnut chest and fore-belly (nominate limosa is more cinnamon-rufous). The head and neck are smooth cinnamon-rufous (somewhat reminiscent of an American Avocet), accented by a white supercilium (less pronounced behind the eye), dark lores, and white eye-arc. The rest of the under parts are white, except for prominent dark barring bars on the sides, flanks, lateral tail-coverts, and vent (less pronounced in limosa). The mantle feathers are pink-chestnut with bold black centers bordered by white bars. These feathers are usually mixed with residual gray Basic plumage feathers (some of which will not be replaced). A bright white lower rump and upper tail coverts divide the black tail from the blackish lower back and upper rump. The under tail coverts are white. Females are duller overall, and the dark barring on the under parts is more restricted to the flanks. Wing coverts are brown. In flight, Black-tailed’s white under wing outlined in black is diagnostic (Fig. 2). From above, the wing pattern of Hudsonian and Black-tailed is similar; Black-tailed has a larger, more conspicuous white wing stripe. The onset of Prebasic molt begins on the breeding grounds or at staging areas and includes some body feathers and inner primaries (extent and timing of molt varies among populations). Molt is then suspended and later completed on the wintering grounds. Definitive Basic plumage is fairly uniform in appearance, recalling Basic plumage of Hudsonian Godwit or perhaps even Willet. The upper parts are gray-brown with the scapulars and wing coverts edged with white, the under parts are grayish-white, and the face pattern generally a drabber version of Alternate plumage. The striking pattern of the wings and tail in flight remains diagnostic: in Basic plumage, Juvenile plumage is similar to Basic, especially the “plainness” of the plumage, but gray is replaced by cinnamon on the face and neck, and the upper wing coverts are edged with cinnamon-buff, giving the back a somewhat more scalloped appearance.

Voice. Call notes reported as “(from Birds of the Western Palearctic [BDP]) ‘daait’ or ‘daa.’ ‘Also ‘kett’ or ‘kik’ — nothing that could be interpreted as ‘godwit.’”

...
Juvenile plumage, each mantle and wing covert feather has whitish-buff giving the background a scalloped appearance—
the brown and white plumage very distinct from any plumage of Marbled (Fig. 3). The throat and breast are buffy and the remainder of the underparts is white.

Voice. Reported as generally silent away from breeding sites (from BWP).

Annotation “gahick,” also “k-wit…week” (= interpret as sounding like “godwit”).

So what about those reports from outside the “normal” pattern? In the case of poor viewing conditions (longer distance, poor light) and/or by a lack of knowledge about species’ status.

However, Shorebirds: An Identification Guide (obviously devoted to shorebirds of the World) has the best coverage of these four species.

The Main ID Pitfall

Our two regularly occurring species, Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, are very different from each other in all plumages and should be unmistakable under good viewing conditions and, especially, if seen in flight. Marbled Godwits look more or less the same in all plumages, except that females are larger. Spring migrant Hudsonian Godwits, on the other hand, can be quite variable in size and coloration. Observations of Hudsonian Godwits tend to have duller Alternate plumage (or, some individuals could still be in Basic Plumage) and are larger and longer-billed, they would be more likely to be mistaken for a Marbled Godwit, especially in direct comparison to a smaller, shorter-billed, more brightly plumaged male Hudsonian. The likelihood of this “misidentification” occurring would, of course, depend on the case of poor viewing conditions (longer distance, poor light) and/or by a lack of knowledge about species’ status.

Molt

Presence or absence of primary molt is often helpful in predicting whether a bird is a migrant versus “over-summering” or “over-wintering.” As discussed in Let’s take a closer look — Calidris (No. 187: 8-14 LOS News) it adds another important dimension to your observational “tool kit.” Primary molt should be looked for if birds are observed during June and July. Summering individuals (most likely one-year-olds, or “defective” individuals with some disability that forced them to remain south of breeding areas) initiate molt earlier than post-breeders. For many species, southbound migrants do not begin primary molt until they arrive at staging sites. A Marbled Godwit in Basic Plumage in June is likely a summertime bird because a returning bird should be on a later molt schedule. However, godwits have a more complex molt than many of the peeps. Some godwits initiate primary molt on breeding staging sites and others wait until post-breeder migration and finish molt on the wintering grounds. These migrants can therefore show a mixture of new inner and older outer primaries while migrating. More details about molt are discussed in the species accounts below.

Hudsonian Godwit

Plumage.

Definitive Basic Plumage is acquired by a complete molt. The replacement of body feathers is initiated following breeding cycles and the molt is an important dimension to your observational “tool kit.” Primary molt should be looked for if birds are observed during June and July. Summering individuals (most likely one-year-olds, or “defective” individuals with some disability that forced them to remain south of breeding areas) initiate molt earlier than post-breeder. For many species, southbound migrants do not begin primary molt until they arrive at staging sites. A Marbled Godwit in Basic Plumage in June is likely a summertime bird because a returning bird should be on a later molt schedule. However, godwits have a more complex molt than many of the peeps. Some godwits initiate primary molt on breeding staging sites and others wait until post-breeder migration and finish molt on the wintering grounds. These migrants can therefore show a mixture of new inner and older outer primaries while migrating. More details about molt are discussed in the species accounts below.

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consideration during the identification process. Most observers are aware that records of the rarest species (e.g., those on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee “Review List”) are evaluated to establish whether the identification is likely correct. However, “regular” (non-Review List) species that are found at the wrong time and/or place may actually be considered just as or more unusual than some “Review List” species (for which there may be numerous records and a well-established pattern of vagrancy from over the years). For example, in the case of godwits, a winter record of Hudsonian Godwit would be unprecedented. Such a record might be considered just as or more unusual than, say, another Louisiana spring record of Black-tailed Godwit. Similarly (if not as dramatically), Marbled Godwits are unusual inland, especially in spring, and should be identified with caution and well-documented. For guidelines on how to properly document unusual records, see How to Document Rare Birds by D. L. Dittmann and Greg Lasley reprinted from BIRDING at the LOS website (http://losbird.org/dittman_lasley.htm). Also at the web site, see Instructions for reporting Louisiana birds (http://losbird.org/instruct_lbrc.htm). The best source of information about Louisiana birds is still, of course, Louisiana Birds (Lowery 1974). Although increasingly out-of-date, the status, abundance, and seasonal data therein (refer especially to the Summary of Seasonal Occurrence “bar graphs”) are still reasonably accurate for the majority of Louisiana species (a great example of the durability of those “established patterns”).

Specimens and the Louisiana bird record card file at the LSU Museum of Natural Science provided an invaluable resource. Additional sources of information include the AOU Check-list of North American Birds (7th Edition); Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol III Waders to Gulls (BWP); and Holarctic Waders: Birds of North America-Life Histories for the 21st Century accounts: Marbled Godwit, No. 492, 2000; Hudsonian Godwit, No. 629, 2002; and Bar-tailed Godwit, No. 581, 2001; these are highly recommended for additional information about these species.

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Louisiana Ornithological Society
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LUS 12

**LOUISIANA BIRDS • SPRING 2001 • (1 – 31 May)**

*Joseph P. Kleiman*

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**KEY:** boldfaced species are on the Louisiana Birds List Committee (LBBC) Review List. Document, is on file, and eventual acceptance of these records is pending evaluation by the LBBC. LBBC ad. = immature; LBBC = Louisiana Birds by George H. Lowry, Jr., 3rd Edition; m.ob. = many observers; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; ph. = photograph to be deposited in LBBC archives at Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS); WMA = Wildlife Management Area. Parish names are in italics. This is the protocol used by Steve Carduff when he wrote these columns for the *LOS News.*

Three American Bitterns, a species of concern, were seen on 3 separate occasions at L Pool, Cameron, (JPK, JK, FB) from 6 April to 5 May. Good numbers of another species of concern, Reddish Egret, occurred at Fourchon, Lafourche, Jefferson, (JPK, BB, RDP, CPM, DCP), with 11 on 4 March and 6 still present on 27 May. This species nests in small numbers in this part of the state. Roseate Spoonbill occurred at Fourchon, Cameron (JPK, BB) and 40 at a colony at Belle Pass, Cameron (JPK, BB) on 27 May.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to expand with 6 reports from 13 April to 30 May from various parts of the state, Vermilion, Plaquemines, Cameron, Terrebonne, (BF, DT, TG, PMW, BB, JPK, KB, GP, Paul Yakopich, Ron Pallie, Dr. Sasser).

One of our more spectacular birds, the Swallow-tailed Kite, continues to do well, despite some logging in one of its nesting areas. In Sherburne WMA, St. Martin, 7 were found on 3 and 11 April (JOC), 9 breeding birds (aerial survey) at Sherburne and Atchafalaya NWR, St. Martin, Berville, Pointe Coupee, (JOC, POS), and 10 on 15 April at Sherburne (DL, m.ob.). A kite was also found in Beauregard Parish on 13 April along the Sabine River (DL). In the town of Pearl River, St. Tammany, on 5 May, 22 Swallow-tailed Kites were at a roost near a nesting colony (JOC, JOS, Bussh) and 2 were found on 20 May during an aerial survey of the Pearl River basin, St. Tammany, Pearl River County, MS (JOC, PS). A good movement of 148 Mississippi Kites, all flying east, was seen on Old River Road in Beauregard Parish on 13 April (DL). On 15 April, the same observer found a flock of 44 Mississippi Kites in a feeding frenzy on a dragonfly swarm on Whiskey Bay Road, St. Martin.

Observations of Swainson’s Hawk has 1, possibly a breeding bird, on 3 May at US 61 between LaPlace and Gramercy, St. John, (PY, JW). At mile marker 41, 1-10 in Jefferson Parish (WCR, JPK), on a foggy night with car lights flashing for nesting (at) Chalmette, (Carolina Rettig, Molly Richard).

A late American Kestrel on 6 May was found near the west ferry landing in Cameron (PY). Two late Peregrine Falcons were found 5 May in Acadia: 1 at LA92 x LA13, and 1 just north of Morse (JPK, FB).

The observation of 2 King Rails at Big Branch NWR, St. Tammany (DM, EM), on 20 May suggests that they might be trying to breed. The Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas does not report any Rallus species for the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, Jefferson, provided an excellent count of Wilson’s Plover, with 47 being found on 24 March (DM, RDP). On the same day in this area, they also found 14 Piping Plovers, an endangered species. Other reports of Piping Plovers in this same area were on 6 April and 1 on 6 May (PMW, CSM, BMM).

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) breeds strictly in the Old World from Iceland, the Faeroe Islands, southern Scandinavia, the Baltic states, central Russia, central Siberia, and Kamchatka south to southern Europe, southern Russia, Lake Baikal, Mongolia, and the Sea of Okhotsk. Black-tailed Godwits winter from the British Isles, the Mediterranean region, India, Myanmar, China, and the Philippines south to east-central Africa, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines and New Guinea. The species winters in the Philippines, when a spring visitor in Alaska, and is accidental to the Atlantic Coast from Newfoundland to Florida, with most records along the immediate coast. There is one record for Louisiana: 11-12 May 1999, about 4 mi. north of Kaplan, Vermilion Parish. This bird was associating with Hudsonian Godwits in a shallow (draining) pond.

Records of Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosus laponicus*) have been found in, or adjacent to, Louisiana. Two subspecies occur in North America. The Alaskan subspecies, *L. l. baueri,* breeds in western and northern Alaska and eastern Siberia. Like Hudsonian Godwit, *baueri* is a long-distance migrant. There are 2 migration stages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim river delta and other western Alaska peninsulas (peaking in September), then they fly non-stop to winter quarters in New Zealand and Australia. In spring, Bar-tailed godwits move north and stage in central eastern Asia then fly non-stop to breeding sites. The European subspecies, *L. l. lapponicus,* breeds from Sweden, northeastern Norway, and northern Finland to western Russia. Nominant *lapponicus* is a short-to-fairly long-distance migrant in the British Isles-Northern France-Northern Ireland region, Mediterranean region, Black Sea, and the Persian Gulf south to central Africa, western India, Sri Lanka, islands of the northern Indian Ocean, and, casually, to the Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira, the Canaries (DL), and the Seychelles (BB). Godwits that are considered distinct from *baueri* are the subspecies *menzbieri,* which intergrades with *baueri* and breeds in the intervening north-central region of the former USSR.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosus lapponicus*) is a common bird in fall and winter along the Pacific Coast from south-coastal Alaska to southern California, nominal *L. l. baueri* (laboriously trying to breed) from Newfoundland to Florida (with at least one record from the Florida Gulf coast). Although there are no records from elsewhere on the Gulf coast or from the U.S. interior, either of the two U.S.-occuring subspecies could potentially show up in Louisiana. This species will most likely turn up on the coast, as it prefers coastal mudflats, beaches, and salt marshes for foraging and roosting, but it should also be sought among other migrant shorebirds inland, especially in the rice and crab-producing areas of southeastern Louisiana. Be on the lookout for this species during spring or fall migration, or perhaps even during the winter.

**Godwits in General**

Godwits are large, somewhat between awkward and elegant, and relatively few in numbers. They include the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosus lapponicus*, from Latin limus = muddy). Like many other species of shorebirds, godwits deliberately pick or probe exposed or shallowly flooded soft muddy substrates for invertebrate prey, although they can dive to gain access to a somewhat deeper water if necessary. Godwits are usually found in association with, and can be directly compared to, other shorebird species. Their size alone, which usually dwarfs other shorebirds, quickly eliminates the majority of other species from consideration. In our area, the only shorebirds that could remotely be confused with godwits based on size and general coloration are Willet and Long-billed Curlew, but both are easily eliminated given adequate looks at obvious field marks. American Avocet is superficially godwit-like in size and shape, but the pluming is strikingly different, and the bill is very slender, delicate, and all-black—likely not to cause confusion even in poor views. Black-bellied Plover is so unique a two-toned (pale basally, dark distally) appearance to the bill. All plumage variations and age variation, with breeding condition males bright (reddish orange base) and juveniles dullest (dull pink). Although absolute bill length can actually overlap between Long-billed Dowitcher and Hudsonian Godwit, dowitchers are smaller, lack the pink base to the bill (instead it’s greenish or orange), and are shorter legged and generally more “dumpy” in appearance. All godwits have essentially all-dark-colored legs: gray, bluish-gray, blackish-gray, or brownish-black. All four species of godwit show relatively dramatic reverse sexual size dimorphism (females being considerably larger than males). Within species-specific dimorphism in overall size can equal between-species size differences, and is a potential cause of misidentifications. Females also have longer and more prominently colored bills than males. Other reports of Piping Plovers in this same area were 6 on 16 April and 1 on 6 May (PAW, CSM, BMM).

Wilson’s Phalarope, 39 birds in 3 flocks, were migrating west on 28 April in Cameron (DM). However, they were still plentiful on 7 May when 79 were found next to the road to the Cameron oil derricks (JPK, BB), with car lights flashing for nesting (at) Chalmette, (Carolina Rettig, Molly Richard).

Beaches, and salt marshes for foraging and roosting, but it should also be sought among other migrant shorebirds inland, especially in the rice and crab-producing areas of southwestern Louisiana. Be on the lookout for this species during spring or fall migration, or perhaps even during the winter.

**Identification basics**

The three popular recent North American field identification guides vary in how well they portray this genus. The *National Geographic Society Guide to North American Birds (3rd edition)* does a decent job of illustrating the main morphologies of all species and emphasizing the important field ID characteristics, but completely ignores sexual dimorphism in Alternate plumage, overall size, and bill length. Flight illustrations (which are important to highlight distinctive wing, rump, and tail differences between species) are included on a separate page and only cover winter (Basic) plumage. The *Sibley Guide to Birds* has better illustrations (all species together on two continued
The only report of a Franklin’s Gull was on 27 April: 1 adult on Chalmette Beach, Jefferson, (BMM, PAW). The Welsh Landfill, Jefferson Davis (IPK, CF), continues to be attractive to gulls with about 2000 Ring-billed Gulls seen on 11 March. These birds, along with other gulls, appear to fly in from the coast and back each day. There were 3 reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Two were from Fourchon, and 1 from Cameron: a near adult was found on 4 March on Fourchon Beach, Lafourche (PAW, BMM, RDP), and on 16 April a fourth summer bird was present at Elinor’s Island, Jefferson (BMM, CCS, PAW); an adult was found on 17 April at East Jetty, Cameron (DL, m.ob.). An all white Glaucous Gull, on the late date of 6 May, was seen west of Holly Beach, Cameron (PK-ph). Also late, 5 May, was a first summer Great Black-backed Gull on Rutherford Beach, Cameron (JW-ph, IPK-ph, SZ). Another rare gull, a Black-legged Kittiwake, first year, was observed 27 April on Rutherford Beach (BMM-ph, CCS, RDP-vt).

In winter and early spring, the rice fields of southwest Louisiana are excellent places to see Gull-billed Tern, a species of concern. Twelve were seen west of Lake Arthur, Jefferson Davis (IPK, CF), on 11 March. A good count of 300+ Common Terns was obtained on various beaches in Cameron (DM). Least Terns were early at Elinor’s Island, Jefferson (DM, RDP), when 4 were present on 24 March. On 6 May, the Fourchon, Grand Isle area, Lafourche, Jefferson (PAW, BMM), had ~2000 Least Terns present.

White-winged Doves are continuing their eastward expansion. On six days between 4 March and 27 May, these doves were found on Grand Isle and in New Orleans, with as many as 8 in New Orleans (PAW, BMM, RDP, CCS) on 6 April. Also, 2 White-winged Doves visiting a feeder in uptown New Orleans, Orleans (Joyce and Bernie Mayer), from 9 to 16 April. The range expansion of Inca Doves continues as well. They apparently nested successfully on Grand Isle, Jefferson (BMM, PAW), as 5 adults and 2 fledglings were found on 6 May. In contrast, the Ground Dove has become quite rare in Louisiana since the publication of Lowery (1974). Only 2 Ground Doves were reported: 1 on 7 April on Grand Isle, Jefferson (DM), and 1 on 17 April in Vermilion (DL, m.ob.).

Evidence of Monk Parakeet nesting in Louisiana was found on 5 May. Two birds were seen, one carrying nesting material to a large communal nest in New Orleans (JW, AA, SH).

A Black-billed Cuckoo in the Honey Island Swamp, St. Tammany (DM), was quite late, 20 May. Also late was a year-old male Calliope Hummingbird in St. Gabriel, Iberville (JW), on 1 April. On 20 May, a singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in the Honey Island Swamp provided one of the rare spring records for this species in the state (DM, EM). Unusual for Baton Rouge was a male Vermillion Flycatcher on Ben Hur Road on 9 March (Dan Christian, Michael Seymour). The Great Kiskadee present in the Venice area, Plaquemines, for about two weeks was located again on 18 April (BMM, PAW). Two Western Kingbirds (early migrants or, more probably, wintering birds) were found south of West Point a La Hache, Plaquemines, (GO, Joelle Finley, et al) on 31 March. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher arrived early in the Shreveport area, Caddo, when 2 were found on 18 March (RS, Vicki LeFevres). A nesting pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was found 25 May in the Vidrine area, Evangeline, (Melissa A. Powell, Kim and Carolyn Fuegeler).

A large migratory movement of ~90 White-eyed Vireos occurred on 31 March in the Grand Isle, Fourchon area, Jefferson, Lafourche (PAW, BMM, CCS). On 6 May, a Black-whiskered Vireo returned to the same area on Grand Isle, Jefferson, where 1 or 2 birds have been present in recent years (PAW, BMM). The bird was still present in late May.

Cliff Swallows returned to Natchitoches on 18 March when 4 were seen (JW, CL). Some were in Shreveport, Caddo, on 21 March when 3 were seeing repairing nests from a previous year (RS). In New Orleans on Paris Road, Orleans, a new colony of nestling Cliff Swallows, ~60 birds, was located on 28 May (DM). A Cave Swallow was present on 7 May at the bridge on LA 82 to Texas in Cameron (IPK, JW, SZ). A good count of 12 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Smithport Lake, DeSoto, was obtained on 17 March (JVR, JT, RS). Threere were these late records for thrushes: a Veery (CL-vt) and a Swainson’s Thrush (JnT, JT) both in Shreveport, Jefferson, on 28 May and 2 Hermit Thrushes in the Atchafalaya NWR, Cameron, on 10 May (JOC, CR).

Warblers made a good showing in Spring 2001 with many early and late dates, plus the occurrence of the Painted Redstart at Peveto Woods. Nashville Warblers were both early and late at Shreveport, Caddo, with 4 found on 15 April (JT) and 1 still present on 12 May (RS). A Yellow Warbler was late, 27 May, on Grand Isle, Jefferson (PAW, BMM, RDP). On the same day they also found 1 or 2 Ovenbirds. A Cape May Warbler, a rare migrant in Louisiana, was found on 6 May in the Peveo Woods Sanctuary, Cameron, (PY). Another rare migrant in Louisiana, the Black-throated Blue Warbler, was found in two locations: a sighting of 1 individual near Lake Martin, St. Martin, on 5 May (Walker Wilson), and a singing male in Cameron, (PY). A probable wintering Black-throated Green Warbler was found on Grand Isle on 4 March (PAW, BMM, RDP). At Smithport Lake, DeSoto, on 17 March were 10 Yellow-throated Warblers (JnT, JT, RS). Some were already singing. A species of concern, the Cerulean Warbler, was found on Grand Isle, Jefferson, (BMM, PAW, CCS, CK) on 31 March. In Baton Rouge, on 19 May, a late Ovenbird was found near LSU (Chris Witt). On 19 May on Grand Isle, Jefferson, a late Hooded Warbler (does not breed there) and a Canada Warbler (rare at this location) were found (CCS, BMM, Green Smalley). A Wilson’s Warbler showed up in New Orleans, Orleans, (PAW, BMM, RDP, CCS, BMM) on 10 March (DM). It was either a bird that survived the December freezes or an early migrant. A spectacular Painted Redstart was discovered on 16 April at Peveo Woods Sanctuary, Cameron, (RB, Barbara Breedlove). It was reported again on 18 April (IPK-ph, KD, DL-ph, m.ob.) The bird disappeared after a night of good southeast winds, presumably returning to the west. Scarlet Tanagers were early, with 1 being seen on Grand Isle, Jefferson, (JVR, JT, RS, DM, BMM, PAW, CCS, PAW, CK, and 1 in Lafayette on 4 April (Rose Must). A good fallout of Scarlet Tanagers occurred

![Figure 1](image-url)
LOS SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

The Louisiana State Science Fair was conducted April 5th and 6th at LSU in Baton Rouge. LOS would like to congratulate this years Louisiana Ornithological Society Special Award winners. There were several projects this year involving bird research and three of them received recognition.

In the Junior Division, the Special Award went to Ryan Stewart of DeRidder. His project was titled “Do Hummingbirds Care?” and involved using different colored hummingbird feeders to determine whether hummingbirds preferred one color over another color.

Also in the Junior Division, “Honorable Mention” was awarded to Danielle Durand of New Iberia. Danielle is last years LOS Special Award winner and extended her project into a two year study. Her study was titled “Do Hummingbirds Have A Distinct Preference In The Color Of Nectar Placed In The Feeder?” Danielle used food coloring to make different colored nectar and placed them in feeders to see if one was preferred over another.

In the Senior Division, the Special Award winner was Claire Hebert of Baton Rouge and this was a truly outstanding project. Her project was titled, “Mothmots: Molecular Phylogeny and Biogeography.” Claire received assistance from the LSU Museum of Natural Science and supervised access to the bird collection and molecular laboratory to conduct her research.

Her project involved analysis of DNA sequences to develop a new classification for the mothmots based on evolutionary relationships, and test existing hypotheses regarding biogeography and diversification of the mothmots.

After being selected as the winner of the Senior Division, Claire provided LOS with some additional details on her project. In her words - The motmot project is a work in progress. Some results that are fairly certain with the current genetic data set are:

1. Mothmots originated in Central America
2. Mothmots invaded South America at least 4 times, beginning around the time of the formation of the Central American landbridge.
3. The Brazilian Motmot is highly divergent from other mothmots in the “Blue-crowned” group, and represents a separate early invasion of South America. It should be considered a separate species.

The ornithologist Frank Chapman was mostly correct in his inferences about the biogeography of mothmots made in 1923.

Congratulations to all of the LOS Special Award winners and the other excellent entries for their outstanding projects involving bird research.

LOS also thanks Dave Patton for his many years of chairing the LOS Science Fair Committee and judging the projects on bird research at the Louisiana State Science Fair.

LOS Newsletter

July 2002

Let’s take a closer look - godwits

Following reports of Marbled Godwits in interior southwestern Louisiana this spring and discussions of its status in the rice fields on LA-BIRD, it seemed like a good excuse to discuss status and identification of Godwits from a Louisiana perspective. There are four species of godwits (genus Limosa) worldwide. Two species are regular and easy to locate in Louisiana at the appropriate time of year and in preferred habitat. A third species has occurred once as a vagrant and the fourth is a potential vagrant.

Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica) breeds in isolated pockets in northwestern and southern coastal Alaska. Northwest Territories (along McKenzie River Delta and Anderson River Valley), northwestern British Columbia, and eastern Canada (primarily around Hudson Bay). Because of the remoteness of breeding sites, the exact breeding distribution of this species is still relatively poorly known. The species winters in marsh and pampas wetlands of South America on the coast of Chile, and from Paraguay, southern Brazil, and Uruguay south to Tierra del Fuego (>1/2 of the world population). For Louisiana, there are only about ten fall records, just north of Cameron (specimen-LSUMNS); 25 Sep. 1999, near Johnson Bayou, Cameron Parish; and 21 Oct. 1995, near Lake Arthur, Jefferson Davis Parish. Most older fall records lack supporting documentation. There are no accepted winter records for LA (or the U.S. for that matter).

Marbled Godwit (Limosa fedoa) breeds in prairies from southeastern Alberta, southern half of Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, northwestern Minnesota, North Dakota, central and northeastern South Dakota, central to southeastern Montana. Isolated populations breed in Ontario (coast of James Bay) and Alaska (Alaskan Peninsula). Marbled Godwits winter locally along the entire Pacific coast of the Americas from Washington to northern Chile (largest numbers winter along the west coast of Mexico, including the Gulf of California), and locally along the Atlantic- Gulf-Caribbean coast from Massachusetts to Colombia (irregular north of South Carolina). Also winters locally in the western U.S. interior in western Nevada and California (Sacramento Valley and Salton Sea).

In Louisiana, the species is generally uncommon and usually associated with saltwater or brackish marsh; migrants are only occasionally found inland. Largest concentrations are found during winter in salt marsh- mudflat habitats on the southeast coast, especially in the vicinity of Port Fourchon, Lafourche Parish. (where counts of 100+ are not uncommon, indicating the importance of this site for this species). Elsewhere, usually only a few are encountered at any one time. Continued coastal erosion and development of salt and brackish marsh habitat could have a major impact on this species’ winter status in southeastern Louisiana. There are only a handful of records of spring migrants away from the immediate coast (and many of these records lack supporting details). This is probably because Marbled Godwit is a relatively short distance migrant, most probably “stage” on the coast and then fly north over Louisiana without having to stop in the interior to replenish fat supplies. Spring migrants found in the interior are most likely “downed” by inclement weather. Because it is difficult...
MINUTES OF THE LOS BOARD MEETING - APRIL 26, 2002

The LOS Board Meeting was held at the Dyson House. Those attending: President Marty Guidry, Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, Past President David L’Hoste, Board Members Gay Gomez, Rosemary Seidler and Lee Ellis. JLO Editor Jim Ingold

Absent: Vice President Karen Fay

Financial Report: Judith distributed the latest financial statement with account balances and income and expenses to date. Gay Gomez made a motion that we contribute $25 to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Seconded and approved. [This was later amended to $100]

LOS NEWS: We will be using a different procedure for the LOS News. Lowery’s Printing will be doing the layout and Marty will be submitting articles to them. The latest newsletter was produced by them. We do not have an editor at this time but Marty will be seeking someone to take over this position.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The nominating committee for the fall, 2002 meeting will be: Gay Gomez and Marty Guidry. The committee will be seeking candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Board Member for Southeast Louisiana.

AWARDS: Marty announced the awards which will be presented on Saturday night are:

1. George H. Lowery Award to Van Remsen
2. Presidents Award to Olga & Walter Clifton, Nancy Newfield and Ron Stein and Bobby Santini. Ron and Bobby were presented these awards early since they could not attend the meeting.

FESTIVALS:
April 5 - 7 Audubon Country Birdfest
April 11-13 Lake Arthur Migration Sensation
April 11-14 Great Louisiana Birdfest
April 19-21 Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration

ORGANIZATIONS: Marty listed the organizations which we support and sponsor:

1. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
2. Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration

GRANT 2002: One grant was given to Jennifer Coulson for $1,000 for her continued studies of the Swallow-tail Kite in Louisiana

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP: The Ted Parker Youth Fund will be funding a young Louisiana birder for summer camp. The committee currently is making the final selection.

LOS WINTER MEETINGS: The winter meeting, 2003, will be held in Lake Charles and Louise Hanchez has already been setting up arrangements. Will look into the possibility of getting Monroe to do winter of 2004 meeting. Someone questioned the possibility of having a spring meeting in Grand Isle. Are there enough accommodations?

GUEST SPEAKERS 2002: Greg Lasley will give the program for the Saturday night fall meeting October 2002 on the Juan Fernandez Islands.

Rosemary moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Lee seconded and motion was approved.

David L’Hoste moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Fourth Annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies Memorial Butterfly Conservatory With Special Consultant Dr. Gary Noel Ross

September 14 - 15, 2002
“Butterfly Capital of Louisiana” Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds Haynesville, Louisiana

PROGRAMS
Organic Gardening $2 for Adults
Butterflies $1 for children ages 6 - 18
Highlights: Bird/Butterfly Walks
Highlights: Wildflower Walks
Butterfly Gardening
Under 6 years of age free
Highlights: Story Telling

Birds
Admission good for entire festival
Highlights: Children’s Activities
Greenhouses
Highlights: Children’s Fish Pond
and much more!!!

LOS SPRING MEETING:
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2002 CAMERON, LA

President Marty Guidry opened the meeting by expressing thanks to Marriana Tanner Primeaux, Judy Fruge, Judith O’Neale, Joseph Valler, Wynelle Jones and Elouise Mullen for registration, Cameron coordination, hospitality table and store sales.

LOS Officers and Board Members were introduced:
Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, Past President David L’Hoste, Board Members Rosemary Seidler, Gay Gomez and Lee Ellis. Vice President Karen Fay and former LOS News Editor Carol Foil were unable to attend. JLO Editor Jim Ingold was also introduced.

Marty acknowledged David L’Hoste for his continued good work on the LOS webpage and online store. You can buy bird books, binoculars and lots of birding need at this online store. www.losbird.org

Annual LOS Awards presentation will be Saturday evening.

The LOS Board Meeting will be held after this meeting at the Dyson House and anyone interested may attend the meeting.

Anyone wishing to go on the Saturday field trip should meet at the Cameron Motel at 6:30. This will be an all day trip starting at the west end of Cameron Parish and returning via Peveto Woods and Cameron. The lighthouse road will be open but will be locked at 5 p.m. Please use caution as there have been report of aggressive behavior by the elk.

Congratulations to LOS Members who have been honored by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recently are:
Bill Fontenet, Professional Conservationist of the Year Award

Tiny Moore Lifetime Achievement Award

Marty introduced LOS Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale who presented an excellent video and commentary of her recent trip to Cuba. Not only were the birds unique and exciting to see, but Judith also had excellent views of places they stayed, the Cuban culture and even a few tourist sites. She also brought along a photo album and books on the area that they visited.

LOS SPRING MEETING:
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2002 CAMERON, LA

President Marty Guidry opened the meeting with thanks to Marriana Tanner Primeaux and Judy Fruge for Cameron coordination, Joseph Valler for Sales, Table and Elouise Mullen, Wynelle Jones and Judith O’Neale for registration and hospitality table. Marty also thanked Clifton Hebert for the Knights of Columbus work and for the new LOS sign.

The officers and board members of LOS were introduced: Vice President Karen Fay; JLO Editor Jim Ingold. He also thanked David for continuing to be our Webmaster and for producing an excellent webpage for LOS (losbird.org).

Marty thanked Judith for her program on Cuba which she gave Friday evening.

Marty played a tape and asked members to guess which bird was on the recording. Many of the members knew that it was the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The LOS News will be handled by a new procedure with our printer doing our setup and layout. Articles and information should be sent to Marty, preferable as a word processing document. Deadlines will be listed in upcoming newsletters.

LOS Elections will be held at the full meeting. The nominating committee will be Lee Ellis, Karen Fay and Marty Guidry. The positions will be President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and SE Board Member.

Congratulations to LOS Members who have been honored by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recently are:
Bill Fontenet, Professional Conservationist of the Year Award
Tiny Moore Lifetime Achievement Award

The following awards were presented:
President’s Award to Olga and Walter Clifton and Nancy Newfield. Marty had previously presented awards to Bobby Santini of Grand Isle and Ron Stein.

Judith accepted the George H. Lowery award for Van Remsen who could not make it to the meeting. Van sent an email expressing his thanks for being selected for this award. (Marty and Judith presented Van with his award, which was a carved Ivory-billed Woodpecker in May at an LSU luncheon. He was delighted with his award.)

Marty announced that the Winter meeting 2003 will be held in Lake Charles, January 24-26, 2002. Anyone interested in hosting the winter 2004 meeting should contact Marty.

LOS gave a grant this year of $1,000 to Jennifer Coulson for her continued studies on the Swallow-tailed Kite in Louisiana. The Ted Parker youth scholarship fund will be sending a student to summer camp.

Speaker for the October 2002 Saturday night program is Greg Lasley Isla Robinson Cruise, Chile.

The checklist was read and there were 193 species on the count for Saturday. April 27.

Our guest speaker, Jonathan Meiburg, a graduate student from the University of Texas at Austin gave a very interesting program on the Striated Caracara which he studied while on a Thomas Jefferson fellowship in 1997-1998. Jonathan presented an excellent video and slide program on his work as a field assistant for the first-ever survey of breeding pairs of Striated Caracara on the Falkland Islands.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.
PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL. IF THE YEAR IS NOT 2001 OR LATER, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. PLEASE RENEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

A REAL TREAT AWAITS YOU AT THE LOS FALL MEETING

Greg Lasley of Austin, TX will present his nationally-acclaimed program entitled “A Visit to Robinson Crusoe Island and Its Endangered Hummingbird” on Saturday evening at the Fall 2002 LOS Meeting in Cameron. Located 300 miles off the coast of Chile is the island of Isla Robinson Crusoe. Here British seaman Alexander Selkirk was marooned centuries ago. His experiences was the impetus for Daniel Defoe’s famous book, Robinson Crusoe. Not only rich in history, Isla Robinson Crusoe also is home to the Juan Fernandez Firecreneck - an endangered hummingbird living nowhere else on earth. In his presentation Greg explores the island’s history as well as the habitat and activities of this little-known hummingbird. For many of us who may never have an opportunity to visit this remote island and seek this elusive hummingbird, this adventure through Greg’s eyes and camera lens will be memorable.

Greg is well-known throughout the United States for his extraordinary birding skills, outstanding bird trips and contributions to the birding community as longtime South Texas Regional Editor of Notes and now LA Science Fair Winners

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